



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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LD261344 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Shultz Visit—In remarks carried by Jerusalem radio 26 February, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir termed his first round of talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz "very friendly" and expressed the hope for "some positive outcome" to the consultations. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres declared to Jerusalem radio that his own conversation with Shultz was "very positive," and he praised the secretary's "substantive and relevant approach."

Peres noted that all parties "undertook not to disclose the mode or content of the negotiations," and he added that "there are more possibilities than meet the eye."

West Bank Violence—Three youths were killed and "many wounded" during disturbances in "Samaria," HADASHOT reported 26 February. In an effort to discourage an escalation in the "new wave" of violence, the IDF has increased its presence in the area, the paper noted.

Lebanon

Amal-Hizballah Relations—Amal official Da'ud Da'ud declared that, upon locating U.S. Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, Amal is prepared to use force to obtain his release, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Regarding the kidnapping, Hizballah leader Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah charged that UN organizations in Lebanon serve U.S. intelligence interests, thereby making the Higgins abduction a "political issue," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted.

The station reported that seven Amal gunmen were wounded when Hizballah fighters threw a hand grenade at a roadblock in the Al-Nabitiyah District. According to Beirut radio, two Amal officials in charge of "central security" and cultural affairs were relieved of their responsibilities.

SLA Warning to UNIFIL—In remarks cited by Voice of Hope radio, SLA Commander Antoine Lahd accused UNIFIL soldiers of firing on an SLA patrol during a recent incident in the Al-Qantarah area, and he warned that UNIFIL personnel will be treated like "terrorists" in similar instances.

Afghanistan

According to a Foreign Ministry statement carried by Kabul radio, "feverish activities" by opposition leaders in Peshawar only serve the "unworthy aim" of countries like Pakistan, which seek their own selfish ends rather than regional peace.

The statement reiterated that the formation of a coalition government is an "internal affair" for the Afghan people, and it reaffirmed that the Kabul government will "make every effort to normalize the situation surrounding Afghanistan."

Following talks with U.S. State Department official Michael Armacost in Pakistan, Muhammad Yunis Khalis, head of the seven-party mujahidin alliance, accused the United States of "harming" the rebel movement by endorsing the UN-sponsored talks in Geneva, AFP reported. Yunis Khalis declared that the nature of the Islamic government planned by the rebels will be "sufficiently different" from the Iranian regime. "There will be democracy but not Western-style democracy," he noted.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian warplanes shot down an Iraqi jet over the Gulf, Tehran radio reported 26 February.

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn pardoned British businessman John Smith, who had served 8 years of a life sentence for economic crimes and other violations, WAKH disclosed. On 24 February, a British delegation headed by David Mellor, minister of state at the Foreign Office, had been received by the president, Voice of the Masses radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Reaffirms Rejection of Meeting With Shultz

*JN260822 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0800 GMT 26 Feb 88*

[Text] Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], PFLP deputy secretary general and PLO Executive Committee member, has stated that in its meeting yesterday the PLO Executive Committee reaffirmed its stand of rejecting any Palestinian meeting with Shultz. He said the PLO Executive Committee emphasized to Palestinian personalities the need to abide by such a stand and that the U.S. Administration must directly address the leadership of the Palestinian people represented by the PLO.

The PFLP deputy secretary general added: The ideas brought by the U.S. secretary of state are harmful to the Palestinian people's interests and aim to abort the uprising.

Shultz Plan 'Empty Echo' of Camp David Accords

*JN242205 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1854 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Our great Palestinian people and sons of our glorious Arab nation: U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will be put to the test tomorrow, Thursday, at the hands of our heroic Palestinian people, the people of the tumultuous uprising. From the time he left Washington for the region, George Shultz has been trying to create a fabricated and exaggerated clamor. He has also been seeking to give a series of false impressions that he brings something new in his suitcase and that he has paved the way before this new thing.

At the beginning of his move toward the region, George Shultz sent Richard Murphy to some Arab capitals where the latter made statements to the effect that all those he met expressed understanding and encouragement for the U.S. move.

George Shultz also sent Richard Murphy's assistant, Cluverius, to occupied Palestine after making him carry some aspects of the new-old U.S. plan and made him meet with several Palestinians to give an impression that everybody, including the Palestinians, was dazzled by this new-old U.S. plan.

Following his Moscow visit, George Shultz also made statements that his talks in Moscow were successful and that the Soviet Union had agreed to allow Soviet Jews to emigrate to the Zionist entity. He said this to also give the impression that there are absolutely no obstacles to his trip to occupied Palestine.

Tomorrow, Thursday, George Shultz will face the decisive test when he faces the solidity of Palestinian realities. He will realize that the Palestinian realities which are being forged by the comprehensive uprising under

the PLO leadership are by far stronger than all the attempts at circumvention. He will also realize that they are stronger than the intensive campaigns at which the Americans have become masters in their attempt to give false impressions with which they will deceive no one. They will only deceive themselves and their Zionist allies who have become deeply involved in crime. These Zionist allies believe George Shultz will save them from the consequences of their actions.

The Palestinian reality is embodied in the uprising, the firmness of the struggle, the unity of the people, the Palestinian leadership's clear visualization, and the entrenchment of Palestinian constants. From this premise, we say the Palestinian reality has started to impose itself on the Israelis themselves, even the most terrorist and racist circles among them. No one in the Zionist entity dares to think in the old way. Neither Shamir, Peres, the politicians nor the military dare to do so. This is so because the realities of the ongoing uprising and the ability of the Palestinian leadership to manage the conflict have made the most blockheaded Israelis view matters from a different angle.

Why then does George Shultz believe he will be able to overcome all these realities and bypass the great realities simply by making a tour and by submitting a plan whose provisions were previously rejected?

No one in the Arab region, whether on the official or popular level, can think in the old way. Those who witness with their own eyes the Palestinian people's uprising and the mobilization of the Arab generations have washed their hands of the basic Camp David accords. How then can they support illusions that George Shultz brings with him and which are nothing more than an empty echo of the Camp David accords?

We also witness this change of stand in the world at large, in regional and international fora, and in international public opinion. We find they are viewing matters differently in light of the Palestinian uprising and its brilliant results. Why then does George Shultz, the man of the U.S. Administration, think he alone can overcome all this and make things return to their previous state?

In any case, our heroic Palestinian people, whether on the level of the tumultuous uprising or on the level of the ability with which their leadership is managing the conflict, are not introverts. They also are not experiencing any kind of pressures. They do not reject for the sake of rejection only. They also do not accept for the sake of acceptance. The Palestinian people are always guided by their supreme national interest, their firm Palestinian constants, and the tangible guarantees they have in their own hands.

If the U.S. Administration has the courage to recognize all these realities, then there will be no problem. But if the U.S. Administration continues to be intransigent and

to state it will save the Zionist entity from this dilemma through maneuvers, attempts at circumvention, and old tricks, then George Shultz will fail.

This failure will be added to the long list of bitter results reaped by the United States. These results have increased sufferings and erected in the U.S. face many barriers of distrust and hatred which presage many tragedies in the future.

PLO's Hurani on Shultz Tour, 'Uprising'
*NC251752 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT
25 Feb 88*

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has reiterated there will be no meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and representatives of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. He stressed that if the United States is serious in seeking a solution for the Palestinian issue, then Shultz should go to the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, Hurani said the PLO rejects any meeting between Shultz and representatives of Palestinians in the occupied territories because the issue does not just concern the Palestinians living inside the West bank and Gaza, but all 3 million displaced Palestinians throughout the world who wish to return to their homeland.

Hurani said that Shultz' tour of the region aims primarily to encircle the uprising and impede the realization of its goals, represented in the establishment of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and their right to build an independent state on their own land.

He asserted the PLO is the only party entitled to select a Palestinian delegation to meet with the U.S. Administration and added the PLO is willing to select the members of its delegation from among all Palestinian representatives, both inside and outside the occupied territories.

In his interview, Hurani said the PLO is well aware of U.S. intentions, noting the United States has an inadequate perception of the issue and views it as including only those Palestinians living within the occupied territories. Hurani pointed out that the U.S. stand means the United States will exclude the PLO from the international peace conference if it is held. He stressed the PLO and the Palestinian masses reject the U.S. options.

Responding to a question on the implication of the current U.S. action, Hurani said the uprising in the occupied territories has brought about new changes in the region. These have made the United States eager to hold the international conference as soon as possible, after 5 years of rejecting it, because it realizes these changes have taken place and wants to abort what has been achieved on the political level.

Hurani pointed out that the uprising has left a profound impact on international public opinion, particularly in European countries, the United States, Jewish communities throughout the world, and even inside Israel's government and army.

He asserted that the continuation of the uprising will trigger more reactions and lead to the establishment of more national Palestinian rights, particularly the right to return, the right to self-determination, and the right to establish an independent state on its national soil, the last being what the United States is acting against.

Hurani said that the PLO supports the convocation of the international peace conference, provided it is equally represented in it and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination will be included as an item on its agenda. He demanded that the United States recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination and not limit itself to Resolution 242, which it is working to establish as the basis for holding the conference.

Hurani questioned how the United States can mean well and be serious about solving the Palestinian issue, while, in the same week in which Shultz' visit to the area begins, it has embarked on closing PLO offices in New York and asked the Palestinians who met with Richard Murphy not to use the right to self-determination as a barrier to holding an international conference. Hurani emphasized the need for the Arab states to back the PLO and adopt its stands.

Hurani spoke about the revolutionary uprising in the occupied territories and Shultz' visit to the region, saying the uprising is a manifestation of the rejection of this visit in all possible forms and that the people in the occupied territories have announced they will express their rejection for a week, which they have named "Shultz' week." He stressed that the uprising will continue, will take on new forms of resistance against the Israeli occupation, and will not end. This is the decision of the Palestinian people and the PLO, he added.

In the interview, Hurani touched on Palestinian-Jordanian relations, pointing out that the talks held between the two sides in early February were not aimed at reviving the Palestinian-Jordanian accord, concluding a new agreement, or resuming the dialogue where it had stopped. Rather, he said, the goal of these talks fell within the framework of the shift which has marked PLO activity on various Arab levels, particularly in Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, in order to arrive at a unified Arab stance to form the basis for action on an international level and at an international conference if it is held.

Hurani said the PLO presented its views during its talks with the Jordanians and insisted on taking part in the conference on an equal footing with other parties. The

conference must be held on the basis of the UN resolutions on the issue as a whole, including Resolution 242, or by adding the right to self-determination to that resolution, he said.

He noted that the Palestinian side reiterated its willingness to form a confederation with Jordan because this is in the interests of the Palestinian people, provided it is coupled with the rights to self-determination and to establish an independent state.

'Abdallah Hurani asserted that the PLO adheres to the Cairo Declaration with its abandonment, rejection, and condemnation of all forms of violence, despite the recent Israeli acts of blowing up the ship of return and assassinating three Palestinian officials in Cyprus.

He said the PLO adheres to that declaration now more than ever, stressing that the battlefield of confrontation with the Israeli occupation lies in the occupied territories. Hurani said the PLO does not rule out the possibility of Israeli agents carrying out anti-Palestinian operations outside the

occupied territories and then blaming them on Palestinians to destroy the worldwide solidarity with the Palestinian cause which was generated by the uprising.

Touching on Soviet-Palestinian relations, Hurani said contacts between the two parties are continuous. He added that the Soviets insist on an international conference and equal Palestinian representation, as well as the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state.

On the PLO's reaction to the U.S. decision to close its offices in New York, Hurani said the UN General Assembly will discuss this matter on Friday to formulate a response to that decision. If the United States insists on this stand, he said, the PLO and the United Nations will refer the matter to the International Court of Justice. Such a decision, he added, is an act of aggression against the PLO, as well as a violation of the standing agreement between the United Nations and the United States, which hosts the international organization's headquarters.

Algeria

Burkinabe Foreign Minister Departs After Visit *LD251359 Algiers APS in English 1031 GMT* 25 Feb 88

[Text] Algiers, 25 February (APS)—Jean Marc Domba Palm, Burkinabe foreign affairs minister left Algiers on Wednesday at the end of a 24 hour visit.

The special envoy who was audience by President Chadli Bendjedid handed to the head of state a message from President Blaise Compaore.

Following this audience he told reporters: "Prospects of development of relations between Algeria and Burkina Faso are very good and there is a political will of cooperation which will concretize during the next meeting of the joint commission". He said works of the next meeting of the joint commission will be an occasion to examine ways and means to increase bilateral exchanges and reinforce relations between the two countries.

Briefs

Trade Agreement With Sudan

Today Mr Mohamed Cherifi, minister of commerce, and Dr Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil, Sudanese minister of trade, signed the minutes of talks and a protocol for trade in the current year concerning various groups of products, which are to be exchanged between the two countries in a balanced way. The two sides reiterated their readiness to establish a commercial base for a number of years in order to increase their exchanges. Within this context, they agreed to establish joint agricultural and industrial companies. The products of these joint companies will supply the markets of both countries and other countries. It is noteworthy that the signing ceremony took place on the sidelines of the seminar dedicated to non-oil exports, which opened today in Algiers under the supervision of the commerce minister. [Text] [Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 24 Feb 88 LD]

Egypt

Joining Arab Force 'Out of the Question' *NC251248 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT* 25 Feb 88

[Text] London, 25 Feb (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, has said that Egypt's participation in the formation of a joint Arab force to defend the GCC countries is out of the question. However, he added, when necessary, Egypt will provide assistance for these countries.

In an interview with the British magazine JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, to be published on Saturday, Abu Ghazalah pointed out that there will be many aspects of this new Egyptian role. He cited as examples the provision to these countries of weapons, equipment, training, repair facilities, and general military consultation.

Mubarak Meets Field Army Commanders, Officers *NC261128 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic* 1000 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with the commanders and officers of the 2d Field Army and some senior officers of the 3d Field Army at the 2d Field Army Headquarters in Al-Jaja' camp in Ismailia this morning.

Attending were speakers of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council; deputy prime ministers; ministers; Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces; Staff Major General Husayn Tantawi, commander of the 2d Field Army; Staff General 'Adil al-Qadi, commander of the 3d Field Army; governors of Ismailia, Suez, and Port Said; and commanders of the Armed Forces' main branches.

The president arrived in the Al-Jaja' camp at 1030 today. He was received by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense, and the commander of the 2d Field Army.

Joint Military Exercises Planned With Turkey *TA251511 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1445 GMT* 25 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Cairo—General Necip Torumtay, chief of Turkish General Staff, told AA in Cairo that Turkish and Egyptian naval forces will hold a joint exercise.

On a week-long official visit in Cairo as the guest of Gen Abu-Shinaf, chief of Egyptian General Staff, Torumtay said the joint exercise will take place in the international waters in eastern Mediterranean. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile Gen Torumtay denied reports in the Egyptian press that Turkey and Egypt had agreed to manufacture jointly M-1A1 tanks, described as the most sophisticated landwar vehicle of the U.S.

Gen Torumtay told AA that agreement had not yet been reached for joint manufacture of a specific weapon or system between Turkey and Egypt.

Mubarak Receives Kuwait, Medina Amirs, Soviet *NC252032 Cairo MENA in English 1959 GMT* 25 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb 25—(MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received today Prince 'Abd al-Majid Al Sa'ud, amir of Medina, Saudi Arabia. He also received Shaykh

'Ali Jabir al-Ahmad, son of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the amir of Kuwait. President Mubarak also received the Soviet ambassador.

Former Prime Minister Salim Dies in London
NC251715 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb. (MENA)—Mamduh Salim, assistant to the president and former prime minister, died today in London. Salim, who was 70, had arrived in London yesterday morning for medical treatment.

Zaki Badr's 'Serious Violations' Assailed
JN251918 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
18 Feb 88 pp 1, 13

[Article by Mustafa Shardi: "Let's Save Egypt—It Counts for More Than a Million Ministers"]

[Excerpts] A special new body has been formed in Egypt: "The General Corporation for the Embellishment of Major General Zaki Badr"! Members of the corporation include journalists and radio and television broadcasters. And in order for the authority's efforts to be fruitful, a plan of action has been drawn up for it. And now Police Day, an occasion we all cherish, has been turned into Zaki Badr's birthday. It has been reported that the money spent on this year's Police Day is upwards of two million pounds.

If the prime minister or the finance minister think the reports are inaccurate, they should come out with a correction. No one can say the money came from ministry appropriations. Nor can it be argued that the Interior Ministry can spend its appropriations the way it pleases. Such a line of reasoning ought to be a thing of the past. All officials, without exception, should be accountable as to how public money is spent. [passage omitted]

We have no quarrel with the "principality" of Zaki Badr. We have nothing against him personally, either. But we do abhor his repressive methods that run counter to the Constitution and basic public rights. If Zaki Badr refrained from such tactics we would not utter one word of criticism. An interior minister anywhere around the world is entitled to exercise his responsibilities in the cause of public security. Toward that end he is entitled to resort to whatever means provided for by the law. But he is not entitled to overstep these limits, as it would be a crime against the people and Constitution, punishable by law.

As an Egyptian, I charge that the interior minister is guilty of serious violations of public rights provided for in the Constitution. If he so wishes, the minister can take me to court to be convicted if my accusations should be proved baseless.

Strangely enough, Zaki Badr makes no real attempt deny the serious charges! He keeps saying that in his capacity as interior minister he can order a surveillance of whoever he decides must be watched, even beyond common criminals and drug traffickers. Surveillance of party and political leaders as well as journalists is pursued even more vigorously than that of thieves and criminals. I do not mean only opposition parties and their newspapers; even the NDP leadership is now coming under scrutiny.

He is not doing this to protect Egypt from conspiracies as he claims, but more than anything else to protect himself, and in order to gauge the extent of opposition to this faulty, serious behavior in the government and the NDP.

Only a few days back, in the context of an exercise to "burnish" Zaki Badr, the minister gave a lengthy interview to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH. Some forthright questions were put to him by Muhammad Mustafa, the newspaper's Cairo bureau chief.

Asked about complaints by Egypt's opposition that its leaders' movements and activities are being monitored through planting elements in their midst or bugging their telephones, the minister said: "If telephones are tapped or meetings watched, it happens only after the appropriate authorities have sanctioned this." The minister did not identify the "authorities" that sanction a monitoring of the telephones of people whose opinions are not to the liking of the government and regime.

I know of no such surveillance even in the most backward of Third World countries, unless prior permission has been obtained from the appropriate authority. Does Zaki Badr mean to say that the appropriate authorities have given him the go-ahead to have the telephones of thousands of people bugged without the slightest suspicion that they are engaged in illegal activities?! I hate to believe this is the case. And if it were so, then Egypt is now a jungle—a free-for-all society where no one can turn to the law.

So the minister admits that the telephones of opposition figures are tapped. But Zaki was badly in error to charge in his interview with AL-SIYASAH that the newspaper AL-WAFD had faked the pictures it had obtained inside prison cells where the most grisly forms and tools of torture are used and human dignity is attacked, without charges being brought!!

The minister told the Kuwait newspaper verbatim: "Forging pictures is easy enough. Prison security is not so lax, however, as to allow the infiltration of a camera, not even one the size of a box of matches, unless of course the guards are sleeping!!" But I would tell the interior minister that the guards do sometimes "fall asleep" if their consciences are troubled by what they see, and if activities run counter to their nationalist sentiments and Islam itself, which was revealed to liberate man!! I will say nothing more on that point; I leave it to the minister to interpret my statements as he likes.

As for the pictures being forgeries, the minister, himself an expert in forging and rigging, can have my word that they are not. They may have been taken when the duty guards were not at their most vigilant, but they were genuine enough.

We have proof that the minister is imposing surveillance by personal orders. Likewise we have proof that the torture pictures are not phonies, as he is claiming. But we are withholding further information because the country's economic and political state of affairs has so deteriorated as to make all of us dutybound to focus on the task of national salvation. Once this is achieved we may disagree as we please.

I would have preferred not to have had to publish the reports of yesterday and the day before. Indeed, it had not been my intention to write other articles about Zaki Badr, who has turned into a national catastrophe with whom we must learn to live. But the minister has been prattling in newspaper interviews and other forums about us falsifying facts, and making groundless accusations. However, speaking to an Arab newspaper, the minister has gone too far, calling into question the credibility of the Egyptian opposition and charging opposition newspapers with telling lies and falsifying facts.

We have thought it necessary to respond. Not only that, but we warn the minister to keep silent and refrain from making false accusations against the Egyptian opposition. Failing that, no one will blame us if we are forced by the minister's excesses to conclusively authenticate what we have published. He will then fail to make so much as a comment!

The homeland is in jeopardy. National salvation, involving all of us, is an inescapable duty. Let's cease this empty talk and devote our energies to saving Egypt. It is more important and lasting than a million ministers.

Emergency Court Session on 'Egypt's Revolution'
NC261010 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT
26 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—MENA has learned that, upon receipt of the documents in the case of Egypt's Revolution, Counselor 'Abd al-Mu'ti 'Abd al-Rahim, president of the Cairo Appeal Court, will set a place and date for an emergency session to try the organization's 16 defendants.

The trial will be conducted according to judicial regulations which give priority to trials of persons held in detention, so that they may be convicted or acquitted.

MENA has also learned that the documents are still with the public prosecution office, pending notification of the accused that their case is to be referred to an emergency session of the Higher State Security Court. The public prosecution is expected to inform them of this decision

within the next few days, after which it will immediately pass the case documents on to the Cairo Appeal Court president. The court will then take copies of the 10,000 pages of the documents, which include details of the defendants and jury members.

'Sympathy' Voiced for 'Egypt's Revolution'

PM251419 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Feb 88 p 12

[Muhammad 'Abd al-Quddus article: "Egypt's Revolution"]

[Text] I hate violence, armed terrorism, and the language of bullets, but I sympathize with the Egypt's Revolution Organization, and I am sure that many countrymen share my sympathy. In the past I had the honor of writing in support of the Egypt's Revolution Organization when that organization, still unknown, was striking terror into the hearts of the Zionists and filling the hearts of ordinary people with pride.

The reasons for my sympathy are numerous. First of all, they made a point of not harming any Egyptian in their operations, which deserves every appreciation. In fact, I know that they deferred some of their plans primarily out of concern for the safety of Egyptians.

My sympathy with them does not stem from agreement with their methods, but I have always been saddened to see that the Zionist enemy's crimes are not met, on our part, by anything other than protest at the most, or by silence as the golden rule in the eyes of officials. So when some began to plant fear in the hearts of the Israelis in Egypt, I was happy.

I say frankly and fearlessly that it is inconceivable that Israel should wreak havoc in the occupied territories and southern Lebanon without any of us objecting. That is why the people never sympathized with the victims of Egypt's Revolution, but instead thought: Fine, it serves them right, especially since it was discovered that most of them were actually intelligence men posing as diplomats.

Someone might say: How could we approve of the killing of diplomats in our country—it is the logic of the jungle and a violation of all international rules, even if the victims are Israelis. I once again emphasize that I am opposed to the methods of Egypt's Revolution but, brother, we must not forget that their embassy was imposed on us under an ill-omened treaty known as Camp David, which reflects the reign of the strong over the weak.

So, a group of Egyptian youths came forward and said: No, we are not weak. They turned the lives of Jews in Egypt into an unbearable hell as a punishment for the crimes committed by the state which they represent. They [the Jews] did not even honor the friendship which

they tried to impose on us, thinking that while they commit their crimes they are safe in Egypt. Egypt's Revolution, however, brought them disappointment with its frequent blows.

I would have liked the organization to confine its operations to the Israelis only, without extending them to the Americans, and so earn the support of all Egyptians. However, I understand their motives because the United States is the prime ally of the Zionist criminals.

While I have the honor of belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood, the fact that one of the main heroes in this case is Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir does not change my support for the Egypt's Revolution Organization. When I support him in a personal capacity, I do so not because he is the son of the late leader Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, but because he is a young man who, alarmed by the presence of Zionists in Egypt living in safety and security, took it upon himself, along with his colleagues, to alarm them.

Political Parties Plan 'Peace March' to Israel

NC251816 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Egyptian writer Lutfi al-Khawli, chairman of the Committee for Solidarity with the Palestinian Uprising, said in Cairo that Egyptian political parties plan to organize a peace march to Israel in support of the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The march will be staged within the next 3 months.

Columnist on Israeli 'Ugliness', PLO 'Mission'

JN251623 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
20 Feb 88 p 5

["Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] The Palestinian people's revolution in the occupied territories has continued unabated. It has entered its 3rd month and the ugly Israeli practices increase daily. These ugly practices began with arrests, live ammunition, and tear gas. Then they assumed another form: demolishing houses, ravaging commercial stores, and poisoning wells. Later, this Israeli ugliness developed into the deportation of Palestinian youths.

This ugliness acquired a cruel and horrifying character when Israel ordered that the stone-throwing children's hands be broken, that abortions of pregnant women be induced, and that youths be buried alive after they are tortured nearly to death. Thus, Israel neither kills these youth before burying them, nor allows them to receive treatment despite the ugliness of the torture inflicted on them. Israel tortures youths to the verge of death. Then, it buries them alive.

Hitler would be viewed as an angel if compared with Israeli leaders. He did not commit any of the atrocities that are being perpetrated by Israel against the Arabs in the occupied territories. In spite of this, Israel has

continued to put Hitler on trial and to exert pressure on the international conscience, alleging that Hitler persecuted the Jews and that all Nazis who participated in Hitler's alleged crimes must also be tried.

The Israelis write stories and direct films to make the world believe that they suffered because of Hitler and that his followers must be taken to task, even 45 years after the alleged crimes. It is true that crimes of persecution should not be subject to the prescribed laws. However, Hitler's actions cannot be compared in any way with what Israel is currently doing. What have we done to stop this?

Since its inception, Israel's record has been replete with the perpetration of a series of crimes and terrorist acts unsurpassed by the crimes committed by Hitler. The Jews have been able to exert pressure on the world's conscience.

In contrast, the Arabs do not know how to present Israel's crimes to the international conscience, which has been moved. All hearts that have an iota of human sentiment, even in the states which provide Israel with all kinds of support, have been broken.

The international media apparatuses need information and facts from which reports and news stories can be created and prepared. And this is the mission of the PLO, which should devote its undivided attention to the issue instead of making repeated, contradictory, and unrealistic statements. The PLO's mission is to help the international news media, to supply them with pictures, news items, and news stories, to hold exhibitions, and to organize lectures in all states where it has offices and friends. The PLO's mission is to benefit from the opportunity and make sure that it is not missed like other opportunities.

The PLO can show the world that Israeli leaders are war criminals and enemies of mankind who assume executive power when they present credentials testifying that they are geniuses of terrorism and that their ability to maintain that power is contingent on their continued perpetration of repression, persecution, and terrorism.

Papers Comment on Shultz Visit, Mideast Peace

NC261027 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT
26 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—Today's Cairo papers express the hope that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' current visit will produce positive results regarding the Middle East peace process and that the trip will not be a repetition of similar visits in the past which achieved nothing worthwhile.

AL-AHRAM says that this time Shultz is bringing proposals expressing the American viewpoint. The U.S. stand so far raises doubts and is not reassuring. All

indications are that the United States wishes to pressure the Arabs instead of Israel, regardless of superficial attempts to make us believe the opposite, the paper asserts.

The paper takes the view that, despite reservations on the U.S. stand, the Arab nation, now more than ever before, should examine any proposals or initiatives aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis. In other words, it continues, the Arab nation should go beyond the stage of absolute and blind rejection of any proposal put forward; it should seek to conduct a dialogue and negotiate on new suggestions.

In conclusion, the paper urges the Arab nation to pursue its peace efforts regardless of all difficulties. Such a course is in line with our beliefs as a nation whose history is based on peacemaking, it says.

Meanwhile, AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses the hope that through Palestinian demonstrations in all parts of the occupied territories, George Shultz will be able to see the deteriorating conditions as the Israelis seek new methods of quelling the Palestinian struggle.

The paper says that if the tangible positive aspect of Shultz' visit is demonstrated by the statement in which he said he will discuss a form of final settlement of the Middle East conflict, this should be translated into new and practical ideas. As President Husni Mubarak declared, the old formulas on autonomy can no longer apply; the facts now demand a new approach.

The paper concludes by affirming that peace can be achieved only through an international conference on a land-for-peace basis. This fact should be clear to all parties, the paper adds.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Sierra Leone's Koroma
LD251956 Tripoli JANA in English 1447 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has received Al-Haji Abdul Karim Koroma, the foreign minister of Sierra Leone. Mr Koroma has handed the leader a letter from Mr. Joseph Saidu Momoh, president of Sierra Leone.

JANA Editor Views Reagan News Conference

Reveals 'Conflicting' Policy
LD252159 Tripoli JANA in English 1804 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The head of the American Administration Reagan refused to condemn the crimes and carnage perpetrated by the Zionist occupation forces against the Arab people of occupied Palestine.

At press conference held in Washington yesterday, he evaded answering the question posed by journalists concerning the refusal of the American Administration to condemn the Zionist criminal acts in occupied Palestine, while the administration continues to speak of alleged violations of human [rights] in other places.

Instead Reagan claimed that the widespread popular uprising led by the generation of anger in occupied Palestine for more than 76 days was the result of outside agitation.

Regarding the so-called "peace proposals" the head of the American Administration affirmed that any proposal in this direction should be based upon the guarantee security of the Zionists.

In response to these statements JANA Arab affairs editor says

First:

The head of the American Administration by making such statements drops the fig-leaf behind which his administration hides in its so called "defence of human rights" thus revealing the truth about the ugly face of his administration and its conflicting imperialist policy in full view of the whole world.

A policy which is a misconception from the start regarding anything to do with human rights and the choice of peoples for liberation and independence while the U.S. Administration goes to any length of practising state terrorism and underhand tactics in order to advance imperialist colonialist interests.

What is unfolding in occupied Palestine has surpassed by its sheer scale, ferocity and continuity such appraisals and dubbings as uttered by the head of the American Administration and proves to the whole world that what goes on in the towns, villages and camps inside occupied Palestine as whole is a real and widespread people's revolution led by the Arab generation of anger which has become fully aware of the danger posed it by the Zionist racist American-Western backed occupation.

A generation also aware that there is no escape from being downtrodden and annihilated but through lighting the fire of revolution, the escalation of popular rejection and universal resistance of this danger which is not just directed at Palestine alone or any one Arab country but the destruction of the whole Arab nation and the building of the Zionist state on its rubble.

Third [as received]:

By reaffirming that the security of the Zionists is the central basis upon which it calls peace proposals in the region must stand, the U.S. Administration is not adding anything new as far as we are concerned because we are aware and have warned time and time again that to

attempt to differentiate between America and the Zionists would be an attempt to delude oneself because there is no difference between the two.

What is probably new is that the suspect moves have increased in recent times on the part of certain Arab regimes under the disguise of the so-called peace initiatives in the region.

These regimes are probably yet not aware that one of the elements which initiated the revolution of the generation of anger in occupied Palestine was this official defeatist reality which has become synonymous with trading with the cause and the betting on the American decision in what they call solving the problem and the establishing of peace in which treason becomes a view worthy of discussion.

'Twisted Logic' Used

LD261132 Tripoli JANA in English 0935 GMT
26 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The U.S. Administration head, Reagan, at a press conference held Wednesday in Washington said that there were people suspected of being terrorists had entered from outside Palestine who started encouraging and conducting terrorism there.

He refrained from condemning the crimes committed by the Zionist occupation gangs against the Palestinians.

JANA's Arab affairs editor has remarked on Reagan's comments saying that what pretender Reagan said that there were "terrorists" (sic) who encouraged terrorism represents a belittlement of the struggle and a revolution of a whole people who has announced its total rejection to the continuation of the occupation of its land at the hands of criminal gangs.

These gangs coming from far and near have robbed the Palestinian people of its land, but this people is resolved despite the sacrifices to liberate its land.

We wonder whether the world at large, lock, stock and barrel including the pressmen present at this press conference would believe Reagan's allegations. Should his adviser have portrayed this revolution in this manner, they had (?made) mockery out of him. But, should what he utter represent his own reasoning, we would be surprised at this. So is the whole world.

Our amazement will be the greater as such talk is uttered by a head of a state who should have described this uprising as a revolution of a people instead of twisting the facts. Or still, he should keep quiet about this and shut up should he have nothing to say.

We together with the people of the world are aware that Reagan and his administration are obsessed with the so-called terrorism and terrorists. To them, the struggle of peoples to achieve independence and freedom is terrorism.

How could he describe as terrorism a revolution waged by youth, women and elderly people with stones against gangs armed to the teeth?

Also, at this press conference, Reagan has supported UNITA gangs who are against the revolution in Angola. He has also supported the contras who are against the Nicaraguan revolution. In this foisted way, Reagan's administration sees (?no?) world and facts.

JANA's editor concludes that besides the whole world are surprised at this twisted logic, but such amazement on our part will vanish when we know the root causes of this logic. It is simply that this person whose tenure of office in the White House is to terminate soon is a cowboy and cowboys have no idea of the struggle of peoples worldwide.

Trying of Egypt's 'Abd al-Nasir Criticized

LD252330 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1855 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo 25 Feb (JANA)—The head of the Egyptian regime has said that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, eldest son of the late president, Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, is involved in the trial of the Egypt's Revolution Organization.

In a speech yesterday in Ismailia, before officers of the 2d and 3d Armies, he said that 'Abd al-Nasir's name will not be affected by this court case, that all Egypt respects 'Abd al-Nasir and is proud of him as an Egyptian leader and leader of the 23 July Revolution; the whole world is proud of his leadership, as are the Arab nation and the African continent.

JANA's Arab affairs editor comments:

According to what up-side-down logic does the head of the Egyptian regime talk? How can we understand what he says about pride in the leader of the July revolution which triggered national awareness, the leader who led the battles of liberation and unity, and worked toward mobilizing the Arab popular energies against the Zionist enemy, imperialism, and the forces of international cartels?

It is this present regime that opened Egypt to the Zionists to desecrate its land, stampede its pride, and desecrate 'Abd al-Nasir's mausoleum itself to gratify their thirst for vengeance against that hero who banned those Zionists and imperialist allies from the land of Egypt.

The editor asks: Has fighting the Zionists and the true enemies of the Arab people in Egypt become a crime in which those who are honorable become involved and

because of this they are sent to trial and punished? And at the same time, has shaking hands with the Zionist terrorists, the enemies of Egypt and the whole Arab nation, and allying oneself with them become acceptable, good and justifiable?

He adds: The matter has nothing but disrespect for the minds of the masses and a mockery of their feelings; otherwise, how can the Egyptian regime not be ashamed of its talk about being proud of 'Abd al-Nasir while incriminating those who believe in him and follow his strong line, which relies on fighting the Zionist enemy, resisting imperialism, and liberating Egypt from the colonialist course and cartels?

How did it happen that those who raised the flag of defending the honor of Egypt are now criminals wanted for trial?

Morocco

Diplomatic Relations Established With Ecuador
LD252114 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] A statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation announces that the Government of the Moroccan Kingdom and the Government of the Republic of Ecuador, because of their wish to develop the relations of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of both countries, have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level beginning 25 February 1988, based on mutual respect of national sovereignty and territorial integrity according to the aims and principles of the UN Charter.

The two governments expressed hope the establishment of diplomatic relations will contribute to consolidating bilateral cooperation for the benefit of both countries.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Discusses April Uprising, Arab Issues
JN251801 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTihad in Arabic
21 Feb 88 p 16

[Interview with Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi by Yusuf al-Khatir in Khartoum—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Khatir] After 2 years in rule, do you believe many aspects of the April uprising objectives have been achieved?

[Al-Mahdi] Yes, many of them have been achieved. Indeed, a great deal of the remains of the May regime has been removed. This was one of the objectives of the April uprising. Also among the objectives of this uprising was to end economic deterioration and save Sudan. Some progress has been achieved in this regard.

Sudan is currently experiencing economic growth after a period of economic stagnation. There is now a need to cancel the September laws and replace them with laws that satisfy Muslim aspirations but still maintain the rights of non-Muslims.

There is also a need for a peaceful solution to the southern Sudan problem, for which all the required conceptions and bases have been drawn up. It is true that no peaceful solution has been reached yet due to the stubbornness of the Garang movement, which is encouraged by foreign quarters. However, we believe we have and will always defeat the efforts of Garang's military movement, until it discovers that the only way out is a peaceful solution.

Also among the uprising slogans that we managed to materialize were an independent Sudanese foreign policy, abandoning alignment and polarization, and having open relations with the entire world. These have been achieved to a great extent. I also believe that among the objectives of the April uprising is a national rule that serves the interest of the entire country and not a single party.

[Al-Khatir] Is the ruling coalition between the two major parties—Al-Ummah and the Democratic Unionist—the best means for ruling Sudan or are there other orientations?

[Al-Mahdi] At present, it is the best. Of course, there is nothing permanent in politics. However, under the current circumstances, this alliance and its coalition with southern parties is the most appropriate because it constitutes the center while other forces constitute extremist tendencies toward the left and the right. Their involvement in the power equation causes confusion.

As long as the Al-Ummah and the Democratic Unionist parties constitute the center, they can lead the country and deal with the right and left through extended bridges. Our assessment is that this is the best formula for the current circumstances in Sudan. If the circumstances change, perhaps another formula would be needed. [passage omitted]

[Al-Khatir] The September laws are still swinging between cancellation and amendment. What happened to them? Also, do the alternative laws achieve the aspirations of the Sudanese people with all their cultures?

[Al-Mahdi] The September laws will be cancelled gradually by April 1988. They distort Islam and harm justice. They will be replaced by laws which, we believe, will satisfy the aspirations of Muslims and safeguard the rights of non-Muslims. [passage omitted]

[Al-Khatir] When will these laws be cancelled completely?

[Al-Mahdi] It is known that the September laws comprise 13 laws. So far, more than two laws have been cancelled. The judicial staff law was cancelled and replaced by a new one. The alms tax [zakat] and tax law has been cancelled. A new tax law has been issued and another alms tax law will be forthcoming. I believe that the concerned committees, which have wide representation, have finished preparing draft laws for the penalty code.

[Al-Khatir] Where does the real dilemma of the southern Sudan problem lay in light of the Ethiopian, Western, Eastern, and world churches' support for John Garang?

[Al-Mahdi] In my view, the southern problem has domestic and external causes, which are all adopted by external forces. However, when we tackle the domestic side we will be locking the door before foreign interferences.

The domestic causes are related to the grievances you talk about and the need to tackle them during the upcoming national constitutional conference. These grievances are inherited from the past and are being exploited by foreign intruders. I believe by confronting the aggression and solving the problem, God willing, we will have locked the door before any foreign intervention.

[Al-Khatir] Are you still in favor of a peaceful solution to the southern problem?

[Al-Mahdi] Yes. This solution is also an indivisible part of a military one as well. This is to convince the aggressors that military recklessness is useless and to convince them to accept a peaceful solution. In our view, the military solution is part of the peaceful one.

[Al-Khatir] Why did Ethiopia refuse to come to Khartoum for a meeting of the Sudanese-Ethiopian committee?

[Al-Mahdi] I believe the direct reason was that Ethiopia thinks the Sudanese media speaks harshly about it and its role. I hope the committee will meet soon.

[Al-Khatir] What did the fall and recapture of Kurmuk and Qaysan affirm on domestic and foreign levels?

[Al-Mahdi] Some harmful events have useful consequences. The Sudanese people's awareness and readiness for confrontation and the Sudanese Armed Forces' capabilities and morale were confirmed.

[Al-Khatir] There are known tendentious quarters which say there is security disorder in Sudan. Is there any truth in that, in your opinion?

[Al-Mahdi] There are security problems in Sudan. However, we believe Sudan's security situation is much better than that in other neighboring countries.

[Al-Khatir] It seems there is a clear disagreement between the two ruling parties regarding a number of foreign issues. This gives the impression that there is duality in Sudan's foreign policy. How can this policy be unified?

[Al-Mahdi] I do not believe there is a clear disagreement. Sudan has one foreign policy. It is based on nonalignment and nonpolarization and calls for Arab and Islamic solidarity, though every party involved may have a tendency toward certain approaches in such multi-dimensional policies. I believe this is part of the nature of coalition systems. We will exploit this in the interest of Sudan.

[Al-Khatir] How do you view relations with Egypt? Will the brotherhood charter between the two countries be signed soon? And what about the Joint Defense Agreement with Cairo?

[Al-Mahdi] We expect the charter will be signed. As for the Joint Defense Agreement, there is currently no such agreement. The brotherhood charter covers everything. However, as I often said, there are many concerns between the two countries. One of these is security, which will be discussed within the brotherhood agreements.

[Al-Khatir] What is your stand on the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and Tehran's refusal to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598?

[Al-Mahdi] I believe this war must end in accordance with the points listed in Resolution No 598. I also believe acceptance of this resolution by all parties can be secured by further Arab solidarity and efforts within an Islamic framework, as well as international efforts. This is because this resolution is balanced and sound.

We have praised Iraq's response to the resolution and urged Iran to accept it. Because the resolution is a reasonable alternative to war, I believe the Arab, Islamic, and international positions must be united to have Iran accept it.

Continued Transport of Falasha Jews Ruled Out
JN251204 Khartoum, SUNA in English 1020 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb 25 (SUNA)—The refugees commissioner in the Sudan has ruled out the continuation of transporting the Ethiopian Falasha Jews from Sudan to Israel through United States and Canada in the framework of the refugees resettlement program.

The Refugees Commissioner Hasan 'Atiyah who was quoted by the Arabic daily AL-AYYAM of Thursday said the refugees' travel from Sudan in the framework of the program is only conducted through the security committee which was assigned for the purpose after April uprising.

He added that their travel abroad is subjected to accurate security examinations and that all the refugees who were transported in the said program were not Falasha and they do not affect the Sudan external security.

Sayyid Hasan pointed out that the transportation of the refugees through the program is subjected to official channels in the Sudan and they are to leave the country through Khartoum Airport only.

It's to be recalled 52 of Falasha Jews are still living in Umm Rukubah refugees camp near Al-Qadarif town, eastern Sudan, and they are under full control of the Sudanese security forces' protection.

The daily AL-RAYAH of the opposition Islamic National Front (INF) reported Wednesday the continuation of transporting the Falasha from Sudan to United States and Canada in the framework of resettlement program.

Representative Denies Anya Nya II-SPLA Unity

JN251326 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1022 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Text] Nairobi, 25 Feb (SUNA)—An Anya Nya II representative here stressed that no unity had been created between Anya Nya II and the SPLA. He said that what John Garang has been propagating on this matter is mere dreams and a losing jest.

Jumni Jok [name as received], Anya Nya II representative in East Africa, ruled out any understanding with the Garang movement, especially since Anya Nya II sets the resignation of Garang as a condition for any understanding. He said Anya Nya II considers Garang the main cause of the conflict and the one responsible for the assassination of leaders of Anya Nya II, which the charter of the Garang movement describes as reactionary.

In a press statement distributed here today, Jok called on the Garang movement to cancel this charter and declare a cease-fire to create the appropriate atmosphere for convening the national constitutional conference in Sudan and transferring relief supplies to needy areas.

Jok revealed that Garang's claim that Anya Nya II had merged with his movement is aimed at gaining foreign support, frightening the people of Bahr-al-Ghazal after they started to rebel against him, and preventing members of his movement from joining Anya Nya II.

Referring to the recent joining of the Garang movement by Gordon Kong Choul, Anya Nya II military commander, he said this does not at all mean a merger between Anya Nya II and the SPLA. Garang, he said,

cannot ridicule the intelligence of other people by these maneuvers. He said Anya Nya II preceded the Garang movement in the opposition by 8 years, beginning in 1975.

SPLA on Military Activities in Upper Nile

Attack on Steamers Detailed

EA252033 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Details of the SPLA engagement on the 18th and 19th February 1988 with the enemy steamers in northern Upper Nile has emerged. The SPLA force which engaged the steamers on the 18th February 1988 was from Shams and (Daniel Choge) task force. They inflicted the following on the enemy:

Destruction of three enemy steamers: One was carrying troops, and two fuel tankers, one of which was sunk and the other one was burned to the finish and sank at a distance down river. The troop steamer and one independent barge were burned to frame. Most of the enemy regular troops and militia who were on (?land) were killed or wounded.

The battle of the following day, 19th February 1988, was carried out by combined SPLA units of Mazlum, Zalzal and Northern Upper Nile Zonal Command Headquarters. On this day the enemy suffered the following casualties:

Three steamers were destroyed. One of them was carrying passengers and troops, and two were cargo. The passenger-troops steamer was burned completely to frame and the cargo steamers caught fire, but one of them could sail on its own, and two other steamers were slightly damaged.

Correspondent for the Radio SPLA in northern Upper Nile says that although the correct number of enemy casualties is not yet ascertained, 47 bodies of enemy soldiers were found floating in the river on the morning of the 20th February 1988, and 3 more bodies were found floating on the 21st February 1988. (?Of) the four steamers which were not affected by gunfire, two (?are) passenger carriers, one of which is called "Nimule". [passage omitted]

30 Militiamen Killed

EA252158 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Excerpt] A combined SPLA force of Mazlum and Zalzal Battalions under the direct command of Capt (Kurul Achol Deng) clashed with Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's militia of (Nasa Arap) on 30th of last month in Northern Upper Nile. Thirty of Mr Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's militiamen were killed and [word indistinct] of others were injured. One GM-3 rifle, No 53775, was captured. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Amir Receives European Parliamentary Team
JN251012 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Manama, 25 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, received here this morning a European parliament delegation led by Gene Likano [name as received], which is currently visiting Bahrain.

His highness the amir of Bahrain lauded the delegation's efforts to enhance cooperation between the GCC states and the European group. During the meeting, they reviewed Bahraini-European relations and relations between the GCC states and the EEC and ways to bolster them. They also reviewed current developments in the region in particular and the Middle East in general. [passage omitted]

The European parliamentary delegation arrived in Manama last night on a 3-day visit to Bahrain as part of a tour of GCC states.

Saudi Arabia

PLO Representative Praises Kingdom's Stands
LD260530 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The PLO representative to the Kingdom, Rafiq al-Natshah, has clarified the true position of the Palestinian leadership toward the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its king, and its people.

He said at a press conference held this afternoon at PLO headquarters in Riyadh that the Palestinian leadership gives this position its prime importance, appreciation, and gratitude.

Al-Natshah began his news conference by reading a statement which said: I would like to begin my talk by paying tribute to the martyrs of our people who have fallen in the course of their blessed uprising and for the sake of their great revolution while confronting the barbaric Zionist army.

He went on to say: We also express our respect and appreciation for the steadfastness of our people, children, women, and men, in particular the thousands who are in hospitals for treatment of their bloody wounds and broken bones, and also those imprisoned in the jails of the enemy who are suffering from all kinds of torture and coercion.

Al-Natshah continued: We emphasize to the world that at a time when our people have been confronting the authorities of the Israeli enemy for nearly 3 months, our people did not rise merely in a symbolic demonstration

but to fulfill its aims of self-determination, of establishing an independent state, and of the return of refugees and deportees to their homeland of Palestine for which there is no substitute.

He went on to say: We would like to stress to everyone that any attempt to deviate from the rights of our people or to deal with any group other than the PLO, the Palestinian peoples' sole legitimate representative, will be met with rejection, resistance, and condemnation by every means.

Al-Natshah also said the Palestinian people and its leadership everywhere look with utmost appreciation and endearment to the positions of all friendly and fraternal peoples and countries that have assisted and continue to assist our Palestinian people, its revolution, and its organization.

We express special gratitude to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, whose unique role goes back to the historical positions of the Kingdom which—starting from King 'Abd al-'Aziz, may God rest him, and going through his sons, especially King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who has spared no effort or left an opportunity to help the Palestinian people—has assisted the Palestinian cause.

He added that this position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its king, and its people, enjoys the gratitude, appreciation, and pride of the Palestinian people. With all its factions and institutions, the PLO will not allow an opportunity to pass without expressing its thanks and appreciation, whether through the Palestinian National Council or the Central Council and the various PLO institutions.

In his statement, Al-Natshah addressed Saudi-Palestinian relations and said the fraternal and historical relations between the leadership and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the leadership of the Palestinian people emphasize their familiar and fraternal ties which grow stronger over the years and remain unaffected by the passing influencing factors that normally take place among the members of one family.

He went on to say that what has been reported by some newspapers and magazines about the positions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the resulting misunderstanding has compelled the Palestinian leadership to send a message to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, emphasizing that it is impossible for the Palestinian leadership to do anything that might be damaging to the Kingdom or that might minimize its historical role or the extent of its assistance to the Palestinian revolution and the PLO.

The Palestinian leadership will always be a witness to the great efforts of the Kingdom on behalf of the Palestinian cause in every dimension, which places it at the head of the friendly and fraternal countries that assist the PLO, and that is doubtless. [passage omitted]

In answer to the questions from newsmen, Al-Natshah said the Kingdom makes an annual contribution to the PLO of \$85 million, as decided during the Arab summit held in Baghdad.

He pointed out this sum used to be paid in three installments but is now being paid in six installments. He said this has come about as a result of the decision and policy of the custodian of the two holy mosques to continue to assist the PLO.

He added: It is our pleasure to announce the continuation of this assistance. This position puts the Kingdom at the head of the fraternal and friendly countries who fully live up to their commitments without a day's delay since the decision to give this assistance was made.

Al-Natshah also emphasized that the fund for the popular uprising that is led by the PLO has received a first installment of 6 million Saudi riyals from the popular committees in Riyadh.

He also said they are constantly transferring these contributions, pointing out these are donations from the Saudi people and that Saudi Arabia imparts its assistance through the joint Palestinian-Jordanian Committee. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Trade Minister Leaves for Islamabad

JN252041 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, minister of economy, supply, and trade and Standing Committee member, headed for Islamabad today leading a delegation to participate in the meetings of the first session of the joint Yemeni-Pakistani committee which will begin its work in the Pakistani capital the day after tomorrow, Saturday. [passage omitted]

President Interviewed on Domestic, Arab Affairs
JN252023 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
24 Feb 88 pp 14, 15, 24

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by the editors in chief of the Kuwaiti newspapers in Baghdad on 20 February]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Question] What are the reasons for the delay in the Iranian offensive, about which there was much talk throughout the past year? Do you think that Iran might undertake action to cover up the popular revolution or the revolution of stones in Palestine?

[Saddam Husayn] Many of the operations undertaken by Iran, particularly the big ones, were regrettably timed, as if they were designed to harm the Arab nation on a larger scale and not only one part of this nation. You all remember the Israeli aggression on Lebanon in 1982 and how that aggression coincided with Iran's aggression on Basra.

Consequently, and under the circumstances of our kinfolk and our heroic Palestinian people in the occupied territory, we do not rule out that Iran might play any role that distracts attention from what is going on in the occupied territory. But generally, what are the basic factors which delayed an Iranian action? We sum them all up by calculating the factors of capability and power on both sides, as this is the decisive element. You are aware of the factors which increase Iraq's capability and decrease Iran's capability.

For us, whenever the Arab situation improves, Iraq's capability increases. Whenever the state institutions' performance improves, and the people's awareness and ability to perform their general national duties in the various activities of life improve, the greater Iraq's capability becomes. Whenever the Armed Forces increase and become better trained, armed, and equipped, the better status they attain.

The situation in the Armed Forces now is better than it was during last year's February offensive. Our Army is now larger and better in armament, training, and performance.

In contrast, what is the situation of the Iranian enemy? Its situation is clear. The number of people they gathered within a year is less than the number they used in last year's offensive, and you know the result of last year's offensive. If we balance things another way and say that our Army is now larger and stronger, and that the number of volunteers they gathered and people they prepared for the offensive is smaller, then you can imagine the result.

Regardless of their blindness, the experience of 8 years will certainly give them indications of every step they make and the expected results. Therefore, how long can

the Iranian regime endure a large offensive and a large massacre without achieving anything, in addition to the repercussions of this on its internal political situation?

The subsequent circumstances and time will certainly answer this in further detail, in addition to the details available to us now, and known by you, about domestic life in Iran.

[Question] The international community and world powers, for about a year now, have been talking about solutions to the Iraq-Iran war and about Resolution 598, which was reached by the Americans, Soviets, and other major UN Security Council members.

Do you think, Mr President, that this resolution has not been implemented only because of Iran's intransigence, or because the big powers are certainly benefiting from the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war?

[Saddam Husayn] I did an analysis before Resolution 598 was issued, and this analysis was published. It was a relatively lengthy analysis in which I compared the circumstances at that time to those preceding them. I concluded that the situation then, that is more than 7 months ago, provided circumstances conducive to a more serious resolution. Actually, Resolution 598 was adopted after a period of time, but the big and super-powers certainly balance their interests.

The interests of major influential powers are not confined to their borders only, but extend farther. Therefore, is the nonimplementation of the resolution due totally to Iran's intransigence?

I answer you by saying no; there are other matters which help Iranian intransigence, at least during the past period. It was stated that Resolution 598 is binding and a binding resolution is not subject to negotiation by the sides which are required to say yes to its implementation. Based on this understanding, and because it generally contains the principles we announced before this resolution was issued, Iraq immediately welcomed the resolution and sent documents in clear and correct language to the UN secretary general indicating unequivocally that Iraq accepts Resolution 598.

However, Iran has so far not sent a single document that clearly indicates its acceptance of Resolution 598 without conditions. What made the United Nations and the Security Council throughout this period, the past 7 months following the issuance of the resolution, ask and continue to ask what step should be taken toward the rejecting side?

Some speak about the rejecting side without naming Iran, as if the rejecting side is unknown. Others hesitate to discuss the next step because some external factors have encouraged Iran to continue its rejection of Resolution 598.

[Question] Despite the war burdens and the confrontation of the Iranian aggressions, Iraq assumes its other responsibility toward the brothers in occupied Palestine. It has donated \$3 million to support the uprising there. In your opinion, what is the future of the revolution in the occupied territories? What are the factors of its continuation? And are there any other initiatives to extend Iraqi aid?

[Saddam Husayn] What we understand is that when the brothers need fraternal aid, we should not extend the surplus of what we have, but an essential part of what we possess, especially since this aid is required to defend a destiny, sovereignty, dignity, and a homeland. What has been extended to the brothers in the occupied territory is still much less than what they deserve, and much less than what we are ready to give them.

Although we are under war conditions and all the circumstances you know of, we have always extended fraternal aid to the PLO. We consider this as our duty, and this is why we did not speak of it. I do not know how this issue was talked about.

The Palestinian brothers might have spoken about it. We do not talk about such issues. Being in a state of war does not relieve us of our duty to help our brothers, especially since our circumstances are relatively better than theirs. We have a state, an economy, and resources. However, they do not have a state, a state economy, or state resources.

Therefore, in any case and under all circumstances, we must have a role in helping our struggler brothers in the occupied territory. As Arabs, we err if we expedite the direct and tangible results of the uprising. However, we must view the heroic Palestinian people's uprising in accordance with its remote historic significance, because hastening the reaping of the results would lead us to a hastening of stands; and when we adopt hasty stands, this causes harm to the Palestinian people's struggle in the occupied territory. We must be very patient.

We in Iraq make a high assessment of the uprising and view it as the beginning of a serious liberation from occupation. This is because the best way to hurt the occupiers and affect them is to make them feel that their occupation is a mistake, and that they have no future in the territory which they occupy or in the people under their control. This is the most important thing. And now, for the first time, the Palestinian people have shaken the occupiers from inside, making them lose confidence in their ability to continue their occupation of the Arab territories and their control of the Palestinian Arab people forever.

The shock first registered a high impulsive motion in reaction inside the Zionist entity, and then it created another impulsive motion in the same direction in the Western community. As you know, the Western community used to view Israel through their news media and

through the way the Western diplomats express their political stands toward Israel. However, the shock has now reached the Western communities.

The American people now speak about Israel in a way that is different from the way they used to, before the uprising. They also talk highly about the Palestinian people, in a different manner.

Thus, this is the serious beginning of liberation. We should act patiently, in a manner that would help the uprising in the occupied territory continue to be the impasse from which there will be no way out, except through recognizing our people's rights without cheap compromises or a price at the expense of dignity, sovereignty, and future.

[Question] The heroic steadfastness of the Iraqi people and Army, in the face of the forces of evil and aggression for more than 8 years, have restored confidence to the sons of the Arab nation from the Gulf to the ocean. In your opinion, Mr President, what are the reasons behind the absence of our steadfastness in the face of the Israeli aggressions?

[Saddam Husayn] We, particularly the Iraqis, must not make comparisons. In all cases, the Iraqis are your brothers, and they are part of the Arab nation, its past, present, and future. There have been certain factors that have made the Iraqis demonstrate this steadfastness which makes you proud to be brothers of the Iraqis. This steadfastness stems from the fact that the Iraq, Kuwait, Egyptian, or Syrian steadfastness belongs to all of us, especially since it is an honorable steadfastness in defense of honorable principles.

Therefore, we are optimistic that the state which exists in Iraq in general could occur in any part in the Arab homeland, whenever there are proper factors and circumstances. We are fighting the invaders with weapons. However, our people, brothers, and kinfolk in the occupied territories are fighting the invaders with stones.

So, what made them believe that stones can be a useful and effective means of resistance? It is certainly the Arab nation's history and also part of its present. The Arab nation has witnessed several occupiers throughout history who were all driven out. How did they move out, willingly or by force? The answer is by force.

[Question] Mr President, why has the Jordanian mediation between Iraq and Syria been halted, despite the fact that we were greatly optimistic after the Amman summit?

[Saddam Husayn] Mediation takes place between two or more sides which do not speak with one another or which have differences in viewpoints. A third party will then play a role in bringing views closer. This is the meaning of mediation. Mediation could have proven useful before or during the Amman summit, but after I

met with the Syrian president in the presence of all Arab leaders, and then in the presence of eight leaders, and discussed all details, when this meeting failed, there can be no way for mediation.

The failure was not due to disagreement; the agreement, practically reached regarding the Amman summit resolutions following this meeting, stated that the adopted resolutions represented the Arabs' viewpoint and these should not be undermined. What happened is that someone wanted to rise above them and to be the holder of the higher banner.

What happened is that the Amman resolutions were broadcast and immediately afterward Damascus issued a statement saying that we [the Syrians] have not read the resolutions and know nothing about their contents. Is this not so? Have you not read this? Then they summoned some Arab ambassadors and told them there is no change in their stand. When one agrees to a resolution he should say I agree and if he rejects it he should say so from the beginning.

To agree and disagree at the same time is rejected. He agrees to condemn Iranian hostility against Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq—land and people. These two cases do not happen together; either this or that. There is no mediation now because the Arabs have agreed that the Amman summit resolutions represent them.

[Question] It is noted that since the issuance of Resolution 598 you have been avoiding any statement about the Soviet stand. Have you been, throughout this period, reassured about this stand through contacts between you and the Soviets, or have you another viewpoint about this issue?

[Saddam Husayn] The Soviets are "our friends," and when I say our friends I mean friendship according to the bases you know. In friendship, stands are always expressed in a special way that is different from those expressed toward unfriendly ones. Sometimes, stronger reactions are made against friends when they commit a mistake than against those with whom we are not friends. If the Soviets acted in a way which we believe is detrimental to us, we believe that it would be appropriate to bring this to their attention. We have the ties that allow us to bring this directly to their attention.

Whenever I find it in our interest to reply to a question regarding any position which I believe is detrimental to the Arab nation, I will say it, especially if other means to do this are not available. When we refrain from commenting on a position which we think is wrong, we do so not out of compliment, but out of adherence to the traditions of our relations with friends, be they French, Soviet, or any friend in the world. [passage omitted]

[Question] Mr President, A few days ago the Soviet Union announced that it will agree to impose an arms embargo on Iran, provided that a new resolution other than Resolution 598 is issued. What is your opinion about this resolution which the Soviet Union demanded?

[Saddam Husayn] I have no knowledge that the Soviets have called for a new resolution. What I have learned is that the Soviets promised to seriously discuss the second resolution, which is the implementation of sanctions banning arms to Iran. This is what was said. The Soviets did not demand an alternative to Resolution 598 and I have no knowledge of such a demand. The Soviets have ideas about alternatives to the presence of Western fleets in the Gulf. They discussed these ideas with us and with the brothers in Kuwait and other Arab brothers. They are talking about their ideas.

[Question] You have been known to admit it when you make a mistake, and when you are right everybody knows this. Since the glorious revolution 18 years ago, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has adopted socialism. But the public sector has of late been faltering and the state has been favoring free enterprise. How do you account for the shift and for privatizing a large part of the public sector?

[Saddam Husayn] I cannot give a brief answer to your question. You may consult my writings on the subject. I have throughout had faith in socialism as the route to solving our country's problems. However there may have been mistakes in practice. These mistakes must be addressed and the course then rectified. This is a good principle to apply. The capitalist system also has its drawbacks. The free enterprise system is not without its mistakes too. This applies here in the Arab world as it does elsewhere including the industrialized countries. Its economic and social disadvantages are well known.

Next July our revolution will be 20 years of age. Is our experience now and our perspective on life the same as they were 10 or 15 years ago? If the answer is in the affirmative, we must be backward. If on the other hand we are developing continuously, then it is in the nature of things. It is also in the nature of things that when one errs he discovers where he has gone wrong. We have had our share of mistakes in socialist practice. We have publicly admitted as much. One can cite the mistake of bringing some activities under state control when they would have been better off left for the private sector.

If we have the well-being of the community on our mind, we must strive to keep the economy in good shape. A country underpinned by a sound economy and a strong scientific, technological base should deter potential aggressors covetous of its resources. Even economically viable countries can be targeted for foreign aggression unless they have strong deterrent defenses. We are now undertaking a reassessment against the background of accumulated experience and an enlightened private sector that has grown aware of what our socialism is all

about. Our socialism does not advocate dispossessing people of their property. It is geared to the creation and fair distribution of wealth. Accordingly our socialism seeks, among other things, to boost wealth rather than share out what wealth there is.

Inspired by this concept we believe that without state involvement the private sector will shy away from risking investment in capital projects. Even discounting the social aspect in its ideological dimension and counting only the economic aspect, private Iraqis are disinclined to investing in a big way, given their limited funds and the human instinct to play it safe. The private capital in the hands of Iraqis has been accumulating since 1968. Their increased savings and our developed experience have made it possible to privatize quite a few sectors, including cattle raising and the bee honey industry. If we want to boost our animal wealth we must support rather than supplant those working in this industry.

At one point in our socialist march we were involved in pickling. The state has no business doing such small things. It ought to undertake such projects as the private sector cannot handle. The state must go for the sectors that have a bearing on the country's national security or that relate to the well-being of the citizenry. The state must get involved in the sectors that relate to maintaining the social and economic equilibrium of the nation. We must enter the field of heavy industries earnestly and not nominally. We must build a military industry to defend our country and other Arab countries.

We made up our mind in all sectors without exception, including the military industries field, to give, after a while, the production lines which we view as backward to the private sector, and to develop that sector because it is still not ready to spend 5 or 10 or 20 or 100 million [currency not specified] on a certain project. It is still not ready for taking risks. Whenever those working in the private sector take one step forward to bring about development, we will grant them the plants that used to be managed by the state and give them better facilities, so that they can expand and effect development.

We have talked about the negative aspects and mistakes of the application of socialism. However, this does not blind us to the bright and positive aspects of this socialist activity. To supply an example of the positive aspects of the socialist activity under these circumstances, I would like to assure you that had the socialist sector been less capable than it is right now, Iraq would have been defeated in the war. Currently, all the resources are being mobilized; the first resources that are mobilized are those of the state which are mobilized to enhance the front. The situation is comfortable in all sectors.

Had the case been different, capital owners would say: If a form of flexibility were to be given in the economic sector, then why not display a form of flexibility when dealing with the Iranian aggression? This flexibility could have been attained at the expense of a great

praiseworthy condition. I do not want here to point out the possibility of seeing a weakness in the status of the private sector—a weakness that could have been maintained at the expense of the national front. What I want to say is that a great activation of the private sector could result in seeing the private sector view things from a very limited angle. Then, it would make judgements that might bring about harm and this is an indisputable fact.

For example, you are still aware of what took place at the Kuwaiti stock market. The stock market is not a symptom of a socialist condition. It is a condition that prevails in free enterprise economies. Mistakes and shortcomings can be found in both socialist and capitalist economies. And these mistakes and shortcomings are not necessarily caused by the philosophy of the economic system pursued or advocated. They could be caused by the application, circumstances, strengths and weaknesses, and also by other factors. [passage omitted]

[Question] Mr President. You have announced that you downed an Israeli target. What are the facts regarding this Israeli target, which was downed by the Iraqi air defense systems? How did Iraq track this target? And how could other Arab air defense systems have failed to spot it?

[Saddam Husayn] I leave the question regarding the Arab air defense systems to the fraternal Arabs. However, we issued unequivocal statements stating that our defense systems downed a drone in the location specified in our statement. And this drone came from Israel.

[Question] I believe, Mr President, that the drone incident was almost unnoticed by the news media and by many Arab officials. I believe, as many Western analysts do, that this issue has a great significance, as Iraq has no borders with Israel. Considering that Iraq is engaged in an 8-year war with Iran, Iraq is currently incapable of posing a direct danger to Israel. Besides, there are four or five Arab states that border Israel.

Furthermore, there is the uprising inside the occupied Palestinian Arab territories. What is the significance of all this? And why this drone, which was not a fighter plane? [passage omitted]

[Saddam Husayn] As for us, we always believed that Israel schemes to harm Iraq. We also believe Israel will hasten to harm us whenever it finds the chance. Whenever it finds a chance to harm an Arab state, it will do so. When I say "finds a chance" I mean "finds that an interest would be served by bringing about this harm and when it has the capability to carry out this harm." When Israel finds that no interest would be served by bringing about this harm, it may temporarily and tactically refrain from bringing about this harm.

However, the inception of the Israeli entity and its objectives are based on undermining the Arab nation, the Arab nation's security, and the Arab nation's solidarity and resources. Hence, it is natural to see Israel target any status of capability enjoyed by the nation, whether that status is being experienced in Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, or Jordan. This harm assumes a form that is compatible with the prevailing circumstances. If you take Iraq for example, you know that Israel launched an obvious and direct military aggression against Iraq—an aggression that had no pretext at all. We were engaged in combat with Iran and our backs were to the Israelis. Then, Israel came and hit and destroyed the Tammuz reactor in 1981.

Hence, Israel's dispatch of a drone may signify that further schemes are being entertained. However, Israel's stand toward Iraq is not new. What I mean is that Israeli intentions toward Iraq are nothing new. Israel manifested these intentions with direct hostility in 1981 when it hit the Tammuz reactor. They did this just because the reactor constituted an advanced link in the Iraqi edifice and also because it meant that Iraq was on the threshold of wider scientific horizons. Caution against aggressions and conspiracies, whatever the source from which these may be launched or hatched, should be maintained.

What is important for us is that certain factors should be developed. The situation in Iraq should maintain a continuous development to express a status of excellence and capability. And we are fully reassured about that. The fraternal Arabs' entrenchment of their solidarity with Iraq and their exposition of the Iranian hostility is a serious development in the international arena—one that will help further expose and isolate Iranian hostility. We are quite satisfied with these three factors. One of these concerns our intrinsic capabilities. We are also satisfied with the other two factors, which are the development of both the Arab and international stands.

Therefore, all conspiracies whatever the source, will be foiled, God willing. We will not accept anything less than a 100-percent foiling of conspiracies. The nation, and not only the Iraqis, cannot condone the success of any conspiracy. Neither you, the Saudis, the Egyptians, the Syrians, the Jordanians, nor the Arabs in Dubayy will condone the success of any conspiracy. They neither condone nor accept such a thing.

The Arab nation will not accept a defeat. Any defeat right now will not be viewed, even by any of the narrow-minded calculations or assessments, an Iraqi defeat. Such a defeat will be viewed as one inflicted on the nation as a whole. The effects of such a defeat will affect all conditions prevailing in the Arab nation's states.

[Question] If they do not accept a defeat, then why do they not extend full assistance? [no answer as published]

[Question] Mr President, allow me to learn about your deep philosophy. You say now the war is an Arab-Persian one. I recall the previous Al-Qadisiyah as well as the present one. Meanwhile, we find that the Mojahedin-e Khalq fighters, who are Persians, are fighting the Khomeyniite regime from Iraqi territory. Given that Iraq does not trust the Khomeyniite regime, or any regime which rules in Tehran, then how will Iraq trust the Mojahedin-e Khalq fighters if it achieves victory so that they may assume power in Iran?

[Saddam Husayn] To begin with, the first Al-Qadisiyah was not an Arab war against the Persians but the Arabs' war alongside faith, right, and the call for the best condition. The Arabs were faced by the Persians and their ruler in a certain phase. This was followed by a phase in which the Arabs were faced by a portion of the Persians along with their ruler. Afterward, the Arabs were faced by the Persian's ruler with a few Persians. This took place according to the development of both war and the effects of faith. When our brothers in the Armed Forces named the war Al-Qadisiyah, they did so according to the same concepts.

However, this name did not come from the view that this was an Arab war against Persians. Rather, it came from the basic concept that the war is one of right against falsehood, inspired by the values and meanings of the first Al-Qadisiyah. Just as happened in the first Al-Qadisiyah, the development of both the war and the Iranians' acquaintance with the meanings of Islam have prompted a portion of the Iranian people to stand alongside Islam. The convergence between Iraq and the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization is not one against a common enemy but is a convergence against a common enemy in this particular phase that should be based on common concepts.

We view the relationship between the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization and Iraq or between this organization and any of the Arab brothers through a viewpoint that goes beyond the current conditions and includes the future. We view any positive relationship with any Iranian citizen in the same way. All this will, undoubtedly, show the Khomeyniite phenomenon in Iran as aggressive and false so that its contrary will be rightful. Moreover, this relationship will reduce the fanaticism inside Iran. We view our relationship with the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization within this context. We believe a recurrence of the phenomenon created by Khomeyni will be difficult in Iran in the foreseeable future. [passage omitted]

[Question] Mr President, it is clear that Iraq has a strong desire to construct oil and gas lines across Saudi Arabia and Turkey to avoid pressures on its oil exports. What is the effect of this plan on your future oil strategy?

[Saddam Husayn] As you know, Iraq has a very limited coast. This coast and its waters are now being threatened by Iran. Therefore, oil cannot be exported via the Iraqi

coast while the war is continuing. We anticipated this matter following the nationalization and long before the war broke out. Following nationalization, we faced a Syrian stand that was not good. The Lebanese stand at that time was also not good due to Syrian influence on the Lebanese rulers and coordination between Syrian and Lebanese officials. When we nationalized they told us: You have nationalized your oil industry, should you not reach an understanding with us?

We told them: We are ready now to reach an understanding with you. They imposed on us more transit fees than those paid by the foreign companies whose oil was passing across Syria and Lebanon. This made us more certain that we should increase our oil export exits. Thus, we made a political decision to raise our oil exports across Turkey and make available the possibility of transporting the southern oil to the north or transporting the northern oil to the south. In other words, we had to construct pipelines based on the possibility of exporting our oil via the Arabian Gulf or the Mediterranean Sea in view of our circumstances and the world market.

We stood fast before this pressure at that time. This has been proved useful during the war, when they once again cut the oil pipeline passing across Syria. Meanwhile, the pipeline across the Gulf is cut as a result of war. Oil export exits lie under Iran's direct threat. Hence, we have no choice but to export oil across Turkey. We discussed this issue with the brothers in Saudi Arabia, who thankfully welcomed it and extended all necessary assistance to make this idea a success. We have expanded the pipeline passing across Turkey and increased its capacity. We are also increasing the capacity of the pipeline passing across Saudi Arabia so we can export the quantity of oil we should. The prospects in this field are better than before.

[Question] Mr President, can we say the Amman summit has failed and wash our hands of the matter?

[Saddam Husayn] No, one cannot say the Amman summit has failed. Is the world on a bull's horn? If some stories say the world is on a bull's horn, I believe the world is not on a bull's horn. I believe there is a great deal of good in the Arab situation and that it has great potential. The Amman summit has set a program for the good lot to follow, and the good lot are still committed to the Amman summit resolutions and are forging ahead.

[Question] Is there a new good offices committee, a 10th and a 100th committee. Perhaps there will be...

[Saddam Husayn, interrupting] Reconciliation.

[Question] It is said the cock lays an egg once a year.

[Saddam Husayn] Let it be so. The game is clear and open in front of you. We do not need to persuade each other. If intentions were sincere, if for instance you, my brother, were holding something in particular against me

and I see you and mollify you, or if I am upset with you because of something in particular, and you see me and assuage my feelings, then a reconciliation can be useful.

If there were a particular topic on which we differed, a reconciliation that settles matters may be useful. Now the matter is connected with intentions that have been harbored and are based on a particular destructive view and a destructive role. There is no hope from deflecting such a destructive role from its course unless all doors are closed to it.

Well, let us leave Iraq aside and let us see if that destructive attitude is confined to Iraq.

[Question] No.

[Saddam Husayn] You find such an attitude exists toward Palestine and the Palestinians, from Tal al-Za'tar to other issues. We find such an attitude exists toward wounded Lebanon whose people and resources are being bled. We find such an attitude exists toward the aggression against Kuwait. Does Kuwait constitute a disturbing state in its relations, according to correct general criteria? According to correct criteria Kuwait has not been a disturbing state. Has not Kuwait been the victim of aggression?

[Question] Of course.

[Saddam Husayn] They say is Iran aggressive or non-aggressive? We ask them, has Iran committed aggression only against Iraq so that we need to ask if it is an aggressor or not? Has it not attacked the whole world? It has attacked and continues to attack the world. It has attacked all the Arabs who are geographically close to it, or whom it had a chance to attack. Leave aside the issue of Iraq and whether they want to show solidarity with Iraq or not. Let them show solidarity with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE when they are the victim of Iranian aggression, and Iranian attacks are continuing.

Current Iranian ploys and statements that the Iranians have reached an understanding with such and such a quarter and such and such a person are known. It is an attempt to split the Gulf states to destroy their state of unity and move them to another state, God willing.

[Question] To divide them.

[Saddam Husayn] That is the Iranian plan.

[Question] Mr President, what is your view of what is being said about a truce?

[Saddam Husayn] A truce? A truce on what?

[Question] Between Iraq and Iran?

[Saddam Husayn] Why a truce? A truce is a ploy to pick up one's breath and to strengthen the economy and to arrange other matters to continue with the aggression and destruction. The war has not been going on for 2 weeks so that we look for a truce. The war has been going on for 8 years. He who has been making sacrifices for 8 years does not look for a truce, but looks for a radical solution: Each one in his own country, with each side safeguarding its sovereignty and its nation. The Arabs on the other side also safeguard their full sovereignty, nation, and dignity. They will be well and we will be well. Certainly the two sides will be well after the war ends.

[Question] A mediator between Iraq and Iran?

[Saddam Husayn] A mediator between Iraq and Iran. Immediately they began to talk about a mediation between Iraq and Iran, and make hints. Indeed, some of them have indulged their imagination further by saying that the reason for the delay in the Iranian offensive is the mediation.

[Question] They said that?

[Saddam Husayn] Yes, it is they who said that. The reason for the delay in the Iranian offensive is not mediation but factors that are known to you and are known to the people.

[Question] The PRC's stand is well known. It provides Iran with weapons. Is it not possible for some Arab countries, which enjoy friendly relations with the PRC, to make its stand become impartial?

[Saddam Husayn] All the Arab brothers who, as you say have good relations with the PRC, try to outline to it the perils of supplying Iran with weapons. They also try to emphasize to the PRC that its providing Iran with weapons means that it is encouraging Iran to prolong the war and harm the Arabs, even if its real intentions are not to do so.

[Question] Your Excellency, in a previous interview with the Kuwaiti press you mentioned that you do not seek to humiliate Iran and its people or to destroy it militarily. Is this still what you seek to achieve, or have there been any changes after 8 years of war?

[Saddam Husayn] This was said in the 1st year of the war and continues to be valid. Our objective is not to harm the Iranian people. Our basic objective is to defend our people and nation. We will be happy when the Iranian people enjoy the benefits of peace. [passage omitted]

[Question] A few days ago, the Egyptian president submitted three proposals for a comprehensive settlement in the region. These proposals are the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference, the search for a comprehensive solution that will end this conflict,

and keeping away from the provisions of the Camp David accords that Egypt and Israel signed in 1978. Shultz will visit the region in the next few days.

Do you think the United States will submit new positive proposals to the leaders of the countries in the region for the settlement of the Middle East cause? Do you still trust the United States in spite of the fact that it rejected the UN Security Council resolutions on the protection of the Palestinians and vetoed the resolutions on the just settlement of the Middle East cause?

[Saddam Husayn] Our brothers in Jordan and Egypt have briefed us on the U.S. contacts with them. They indicated that the United States has expressed the desire to tackle the Palestinian cause with a new approach that will be based on seeking an overall solution to the Palestinian cause and not partial solutions. The United States has also become active in this direction, and U.S. officials are making statements along this line.

We believe that this has been the result of the pressure the Palestinian people are exerting in the occupied territories, the dilemma Israel is experiencing, and the embarrassment all the Western countries are feeling with respect to their previous stands toward the Zionist entity, particularly the United States, which does not know how to face its people.

In any case, we must now act with extreme caution. We must not drop any basic factors from our calculations, the most important being the need to test intentions in practise, and not to adopt any new policies that may undermine the morale of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory. We must support the uprising, as it is the sound course for cornering the Zionist entity in the right spot.

To achieve all this, and to prevent any new political state of affairs from becoming just an operation to drug people whether through intentions or results, the Palestinian people should be put in the picture through their representatives. By their representatives, I mean the PLO. Any party that wants to carry out any political activities or to deal with any political state must entrench and consolidate its relations and its interaction in terms of opinions and stands with the PLO.

As you know, the uprising in the occupied territories so far is completely a popular one. Any official Arab activity that does not represent this popular uprising will be viewed with skepticism by our Palestinian people and will create a rift among the Arabs. Our Jordanian and Egyptian brothers are well aware of these considerations.

[Question] Will you carry out a comprehensive reassessment of economic or political plans and relations on the domestic, Arab, and international level now, in the very near future, or in the future?

[Saddam Husayn] The only important reassessment that we need to carry out is to continue to respect the laws of development and reassess all the requisites, capabilities, and viewpoints that need to be reassessed in light of these laws in the economic and social fields, or in the sphere of the domestic and international policies.

[Question] Mr President, a few moments ago you said that the morale of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories should not be undermined. This popular uprising must be supported and guided with all available potentialities. However, some Arab officials have come out with statements proposing the suspension of acts of violence by the Palestinian and Israeli sides. Such proposals equate the Palestinians and Israelis and do not view the Palestinian actions as nationalist and legitimate acts by a people whose rights and land have been usurped. These proposals equate the two sides—the victim and the aggressor.

What is your opinion of these proposals for suspending the acts of violence for a period of 6 months?

[Saddam Husayn] If you are referring to a statement that was made in Egypt, Egyptian officials have explained to us that this statement was intended to make international public opinion act. It was not a statement for implementation. In any case, the brother Egyptians have affirmed to us that they respect the Palestinian decision and viewpoint. We can differ on the question of interpretation here and there.

But we should be convinced that any people who uphold the banner of steadfastness and struggle have the right to decide themselves what they want. The Palestinians have a legitimate representative, which exists and is struggling. This representative is the PLO, and it has a leader at the official level. This leader is Yasir 'Arafat.

Therefore, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, or all the Arabs, irrespective of their location and circumstances, should not ignore this reality when they make interpretations. They also should not forget another reality, which is far more important than the previous one but is linked to it. This reality is that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories are upholding the banner of resistance. They are standing fast and entrenching their steadfastness. What role should we all assume then to render the Palestinian people's steadfastness a success?

We must achieve results but we must not seek quick results to avoid committing mistakes or to fragment our stand as Arabs. Maybe one of the political games on the international or regional level is to submit plans that will divide the Arabs before these plans have reached the stage of fruition.

In view of the Arabs' long experience in this field, such games cannot deceive them. I believe Arabs now are more mature, more patient, and more careful than the past. [passage omitted]

Further Reportage on Visit of UK's Mellor

Confers With Oil Minister

JN251307 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA)—'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, Iraqi oil minister and David Mellor, British minister of state for foreign affairs, have discussed the scope of oil cooperation between the two countries. This took place in a meeting held between the two officials today in the presence of a number of Oil Ministry officials, the delegation accompanying the British minister of state, the Iraqi ambassador to Britain, and the British ambassador to Iraq.

Received by Ramadan

JN252048 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1800 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received David Mellor, British minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the delegation accompanying him. During the meeting the two sides reviewed bilateral relations, ways to promote them in the trade and economic fields, and future cooperation prospects. The two sides also discussed ways to expand fields of cooperation. They stressed the importance of continuing talks between the two countries' officials on all levels and in all fields.

The talks dealt with Iraq-Iran war developments and the current deliberations at the UN Security Council to issue a new resolution imposing sanctions on the Iranian regime for its rejection of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Taha Yasin Ramadan reviewed the current situation of the Iraqi economy and its strong future in light of the implementation of strategic oil and industrial projects. He stressed that Iraq, which accepted the positive and peaceful international resolutions out of its belief in the principle of peace and its concern over achieving it, will continue to defend Iraqi sovereignty.

David Mellor expressed appreciation of Iraq's peaceful stands and concern about achieving peace and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598. He also expressed Britain's desire to promote relations with Iraq, and the readiness of its companies to contribute to carrying out development projects in Iraq at present and in the future. He stressed his country's confidence in the strong Iraqi economy under all circumstances.

Attending the meeting were the Iraqi ambassador in London and the British ambassador in Baghdad.

President Pardons Imprisoned British National
JN251655 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 25 (GNA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn pardoned a British national serving life imprisonment in Iraq.

John Smith was imprisoned on economic charges and violation of Iraqi rules and laws.

A British Embassy spokesman here said today that British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs David Mellor considered the Iraqi measure a prove of improvement [as received] of the bilateral relations and an important pointer of the sincere desire in strengthening relations with the British people.

The spokesman said Mellor conferred with Smith while in Baghdad. The spokesman did not clarify whether Mellor will accompany Smith with him on departure tomorrow or not.

President Receives UK Parliamentary Delegation
JN251434 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received the British parliamentary delegation which includes representatives of the Conservative and Labor parties led by member of Parliament Tony Marlaw [name as received].

During the meeting, the two sides held a profound dialogue on bilateral relations, the comprehensive development in Iraq, the development of the democratic practice, the progress of development and construction in light of the Iranian war and aggression against Iraq, and the Palestine question. President Saddam Husayn and the British delegation's members stressed that relations between the two countries are developed and expressed the desire to further promote them.

The British delegation expressed the desire of the British Government and people to end the Iraq-Iran war in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 598, and to take further measures against the side which refuses to stop the war.

President Saddam Husayn and members of the delegation also stressed the need to achieve a just, radical, and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question, and to bring about true peace and stability in the region.

Members of the British delegation hailed the Iraqi citizens' sacrifices and heroism in the face of the Iranian aggression. They also praised the valiant uprising of the Palestinian people.

President Saddam Husayn gave full, frank, and comprehensive answers to all the questions posed by the British delegation members.

Attending the meeting were Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker; the president's secretary; and Hani Wahib, the president's press and information secretary.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,033

JN251735 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,033 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With courage and full faith in the just cause for which we are fighting, our valiant Armed Forces have continued their heroic combat activities in the operations sectors, inflicting new losses on the tyrant aggressors. The following is a roundup of our forces' combat activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force planes carried out successful raids on enemy concentrations, gun emplacements, and equipment in the operations sectors today, inflicting further losses on them. After carrying out 67 combat missions, all our planes returned safely to base. Praise be to God.
2. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted the following losses on enemy units in front of them: 10 scoundrels killed and several others wounded; a tubular rocket launcher, a medium machinegun, and a vehicle destroyed; and 2 ammunition dumps blown up.
3. Our units in the Special I Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces, captured an enemy soldier, destroyed four infantry positions and a machinegun emplacement, and blew up an ammunition dump.
4. Three scoundrels were killed and four infantry positions and an SPG-9 gun were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.
5. An infantry position and a machinegun were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.
6. An enemy soldier was killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.
7. A bulldozer and two rafts were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris.

8. Eight enemy personnel were killed, an infantry position, a machinegun, and a bulldozer were destroyed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corp sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 February 1988

Iran's Qotur Bridge Raided

JN261343 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT
26 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 26, INA—Iraqi Air Force jet fighters today penetrated at 14:30 hours (11:30 GMT) into the northmost part of Iran to re-hit the vital strategic bridge of Qotur which links Iran with the external world and through which Iran's rail and land roads pass and much used by the Khomeyni's [as received] to supply their aggressive war effort. The Iraqi jets were able to penetrate the enemy air defences and destructively hit their target.

After achieving this heroic mission all Iraqi jets returned safely to base, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said that the Iranian regime who ignited the war and still insists on it must always and everywhere receive harmful blows by the Iraqi Armed Forces particularly the Air Force.

The Iranian regime, the spokesman said, has to face the outcome of its insistence on war and to pay dearly for the aggression from its economic resources related to the war effort and its vital establishments and installations.

Downing of Plane Denied

JN261435 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1413 GMT
26 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied the downing of an Iraqi aircraft in the waters of the Arabian Gulf, as reported by Radio Tehran at noon today. The military spokesman told INA that the Iranian regime resorts to occasional lies to compensate for its failure to cope with Iraq's painful blows.

Shultz Arrives for Talks on U.S. Initiative

Shamir on 'Friendly' Meeting

TA261007 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT
26 Feb 88

[Text] The meeting between Secretary of State Shultz and Prime Minister Shamir ended a short while ago. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports from the prime minister's office:

[Begin recording] [Frankel] After the talks, Prime Minister Shamir walked with Secretary of State Shultz to his car. He told reporters: I am happy to have met the secretary of state here and to have held a most amicable and profound discussion with him on many subjects related to the region. We all wish to achieve peace and to maintain a good relationship with the United States. Let us hear him now.

[Shamir in English] It was, as I said, a very good discussion, a very friendly one. We will continue our talks during the secretary's stay here, and I hope that in the end we will have some positive outcome.

[Unidentified reporter in English] What do you think of this peace plan, Mr Shamir? [Shamir's reply is drowned out by noise from reporters]

[Shultz] I agree with the prime minister, with every word he said.

[Frankel translates the above and continues] Shultz answered, making the reporters burst out with laughter, and proceeded to the next meeting on his tight schedule, the one with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The Shultz-Shamir meeting, which was mostly held in private, lasted 2 and 1/2 hours, with both entourages waiting outside the conference room. We will provide more updates when we have details of the talks. [end recording]

Shamir Aides Note No Pressure

TA261117 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] The Shultz peace mission formally got under way this morning with the secretary's first meetings with Israeli leaders. First, there was a call at the president's, and then separate talks with Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Peres. Friendly was the word used by both Shultz and Shamir as they emerged from their meeting. Jack Katzenell reports:

For 2 hours, Secretary Shultz had a private discussion with Prime Minister Shamir. Sources close to Shamir say Shultz did not present a fully developed plan, only ideas—something the prime minister's office has been saying since the present U.S. initiative was first

broached, and which seems to contradict what U.S. sources are saying, namely that the plan is an integrated whole which cannot be altered.

The prime minister's aides stressed that there were no pressures from the secretary of state, and the atmosphere was very relaxed. The secretary reported on his talks in Moscow, and asked the prime minister about Israel's efforts to secure calm in the territories. The prime minister stressed that Israel's efforts to calm down the territories have no link whatsoever with its efforts to bring peace to the Middle East. The prime minister categorically rejected the idea of an international conference.

After this morning's meeting, the prime minister told reporters the talks had been friendly and useful:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I was very happy to meet here and welcome the secretary of state and to have with him a very friendly and thorough discussion about many subjects concerning the situation in the area, the aspirations of all of us for getting peace, and about our bilateral relations, and something about the international situation.

It was, as I said, a very good discussion, a very friendly one. We will continue our talks during this stay of the secretary here, and I hope that in the end we will have some positive outcomes.

[Unidentified correspondent] Would you agree with the...

[Shultz, interrupting] I would agree with the prime minister, every word he said. [laughter] [end recording]

From the prime minister's office, the secretary of state drove to the Foreign Ministry for a private meeting with Shim'on Peres. In about 30 minutes, Shultz is due to have a working lunch at the Hilton Hotel with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

This morning Shultz had breakfast with President Hayim Herzog at the presidential residence. He congratulated the president on his reelection, briefed him on the main ideas in the U.S. initiative, and asked for his comments on them. Herzog shared with Shultz the impressions he had gained from Palestinians in the territories, with whom he meets about once every 2 weeks.

'Interim Arrangements' Possible

TA261132 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT
26 Feb 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Excerpts] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz began his shuttle trip in the Middle East by shuttling from Shamir's office to Peres' office. It is already possible to gauge the difference between the two meetings from the composition of the participants.

In the morning Shultz sat down for a tete-a-tete talk with Shamir, without aides or recorders. The meeting with Shim'on Peres is being held in a large forum, with the participation of the Israeli ambassador to the United States, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, and advisers. This is the difference between a meeting with a person whom one needs to convince and a meeting with a person who is convinced already.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said his meeting with the secretary of state was a friendly, in-depth one. During the actual meeting Mr Shamir said there need not be a connection between handling the riots in the territories, and the peace process. If such a connection is made the riots will not be stopped, nor will there be a peace process.

Shamir later told his aides that he did not feel any special urgency in his meeting with Shultz. Shultz is getting a feel for the situation and examining matters, and has not yet presented a clear and consolidated plan. The prime minister, we were told at the end of the meeting, is prepared to discuss and perhaps even adopt the U.S. ideas on interim arrangements. For the time being there is no agreement on the other proposals. [passage omitted]

At the moment the meeting with Foreign Minister Peres is under way. It is slated to end in a few minutes. The U.S. guest will then turn to have lunch with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. In the evening Shultz is scheduled to meet with Palestinian leaders in a hotel in East Jerusalem. The invitations are for 1900 in the evening, but probably none of the invitees will show for the meeting, so it will be canceled.

Peres on 'Productive' Talk

TA261203 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] The meeting between Secretary of State Shultz and Foreign Minister Peres has just ended. Over to reporter Alan Ben-'Ami.

[Peres] We went over a very long list of issues. I think there are many openings. I think there is a great deal of work to be done. I feel that the visit of the secretary is very timely, and I look forward with great hope. Our conversation was constructive and productive, and I think we shall continue to do so in the future.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Secretary, how do you sum up your talks with the Israeli leaders this morning?

[Shultz] Well, just commenting here, I agree with the appraisal the foreign minister has just given. As always, it's a great benefit for me to come here and have a good, long, really kind of a bull session about it all and hear your views. It has been very helpful.

Peres Interviewed on Meeting

TA261210 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1150 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Right now, the U.S. secretary of state is lunching with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at his hotel. Prior to that, the secretary conferred with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in his office. Ambassadors Pickering and Arad also participated in the meeting, as did the two ministers' aides, Novik and Murphy. At the end of the meeting, our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami interviewed Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres, following your meeting with Secretary Shultz, do you see an opening for a discussion along the lines of what the secretary mentioned yesterday upon his arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport, namely that he is armed with a practical plan?

[Peres] I was deeply impressed by the secretary's substantive and relevant approach, by the feeling that work is being started, and the fact that there is no intention of merely seeking headlines and flaunting slogans. I presume there are more possibilities than meet the eye, although there are also quite a few problems, more than meet the eye. Still, I think this comes as no surprise to the secretary.

What concerns us is not the arrival of the secretary here in a bid to create a new situation, rather, it is the fact that it is the new situation that made the arrival of the secretary necessary. Suppose he had not come, what would we have done then? We cannot leave the situation unresolved because, as was the case in many previous occasions and is now even more true, the development of the situation does not depend solely on us.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you see in the plans or ideas the secretary brought with him a way to resolve the new situation that has arisen? And if so, how?

[Peres] In fact, we all undertook not to disclose the mode or content of the negotiations. I repeat, just as there are more problems than meet the eye, so there are also more possibilities than meet the eye.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you encouraged now, after that meeting?

[Peres] Yes. I think the conversation was very much to the point, very positive. I encountered a man eager to present new ideas, and very anxious to hear ideas in all the spheres, including principles and on the practical level.

[Ben-'Ami] Was it your impression, Mr Peres, that the secretary plans to continue to shuttle between the regional capitals?

[Peres] I did not ask him, because this marks only the starting point for the work that must be done. It is too premature to present such a question.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Sharon on 'Joint Seminal Plan'

TA260733 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Interview with Ari'el Sharon, industry and trade minister, by David Grossman—live]

[Text] [Grossman] Minister Sharon, good morning.

[Sharon] Good morning.

[Grossman] Foreign Minister Peres, who was the guest on this program yesterday, called on the two major parties to present a united stand in their meetings with Shultz. Do you believe that after the mutual accusations, after the polarization that divided the parties, it is still possible for Israel to speak with one voice?

[Sharon] I would like, first of all, to welcome Secretary of State Shultz to Israel and to wish him success. We all want to achieve peace as soon as possible. We are waiting to hear Mr Shultz' plan, and we will certainly study it most thoroughly.

[Grossman] The Alignment has accused you of persistent naysaying. What is the positive message you can relay to Shultz this morning? What realistic and constructive stand will you present to extricate us from the present situation?

[Sharon] Well, as you asked before, I have already suggested several times in the past, both to the prime minister and to the foreign minister, to try and see whether it is possible to formulate a joint seminal plan. I think it is possible, but not while the talks are accompanied by the harsh sounds of violent Arab riots throughout the country. Riots near Sha'ar Ha'amaqim, on the way to Haifa, in Wadi 'Ara, and in Jerusalem which can and should be stopped.

[Grossman] Do you still believe these riots can be stopped?

[Sharon] Yes, definitely.

[Grossman] How, exactly?

[Sharon] I have made suggestions several times. Unfortunately, so far most of my suggestions have not been accepted. I would say that another deterioration occurred yesterday, or the day before yesterday, in Qabatiyah where a horrible lynching took place. It happened in an area which is under our control! The helplessness of the security forces there was fully exposed.

How is it possible to enable a bunch of murderers, described by the media as youths, to lynch a man who had refused to accept the authority of the PLO and who

fought for his life? For many hours, we withheld help from a man who had joined us against the PLO murderers! It was possible to rescue him without endangering our forces. This is a failure in every aspect: security, operational, and moral.

[Grossman] Who is responsible for this failure?

[Sharon] I do not deal with personalities. As a Jew, and as a veteran soldier, I felt deep shame. Had they enforced calm and order as instructed by the government, it would certainly have been easier to hold negotiations.

[Grossman] Still, Minister Sharon, we have to live in the existing conditions. Your statement that the riots in the territories can be stopped—after 2 and 1/2 months, when it is evident that all the means at the disposal of the IDF are proving to be increasingly ineffective—perhaps we could hear from you some new ideas on the ways to attain this.

[Sharon] I will present my ideas in the Cabinet. I will just repeat this: It is necessary, and it is possible, and we have already faced worse problems which we managed to solve. And now for your question. Of course, Mr Shultz, who is Israel's friend and represents a superpower which has shown itself to be Israel's best friend in the world, has assumed a most sensitive and difficult task. After 40 years of wars and 100 years of hostility it is impossible to find a solution within a few months, certainly not a forced solution. We are an ancient nation with a past full of bitter experiences, and we cannot surrender to momentary pressures or to the problems of the present.

We must look far beyond the horizon and see what our problems in 20, 50, or 100 years will be from the point of view of security and of our very existence. As for our plan: The Likud's plan is the agreement which the United States cosigned, the original Camp David Accords. It is possible to make progress, and even reach an agreement perhaps, if prior to the negotiations we settle the following points with our partners.

First, united Jerusalem is the capital of Israel for eternity, and no foreign element may be granted special status there. Second, the Golan Heights in their present boundaries are an integral part of Israel. Third, as part of the permanent solution, Israel will be in charge of internal and external security in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, mainly to prevent Palestinian terrorists from hitting at the central parts of the country, as was the case until 1967. The Arab population will be linked to the Palestinian state which already exists in Jordan. Fourth, at least 5 years of autonomy will precede any permanent arrangement, as per the agreed-upon interim settlement stipulated by the Camp David Accords.

[Grossman] Allow me to interrupt you now.

[Sharon] I would like to add another clause. A joint master plan for the solution of the refugee problem will be prepared by the parties. I would like to stress that the five substantive points I have specified should be discussed and agreed upon before other subjects are broached. We must not leave these questions, which are the most difficult to solve, until the end of the process. That would be very dangerous. It is true, of course, that if we truly want to attain peace, and I really do...

[Grossman, interrupting] I would like to ask you about the fourth point of your plan for the future of the territories. The residents of the territories have repeatedly stated their opposition to the autonomy plan, in fact to any arrangement other than an independent Palestinian state in Judaea and Samaria, and not in the Palestinian state of Jordan. We do not even know, by the way, whether Jordan would welcome the ideas you now raise.

That is, would Jordan be willing to join us in an agreement based on the Camp David Accords to which Jordan was not a party? Do you think it is at all possible at present to force on the Palestinians a long-term arrangement, one that would not answer their nationalist aspirations? Would not such a solution mean merely putting off for a few years an explosion we may now be close to?

[Sharon] I believe our priority is to safeguard the objectives vital to us. The Arabs' goals are not Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The events currently taking place within Israel's pre-1967 borders merely serve to demonstrate even further what could happen to us if the situation changes and our security control is removed from the areas overlooking the central parts of the country. What is important, therefore, is to safeguard our own essential interests. I do not know what road Jordan will choose, I only know that some of us are willing to make concessions.

I wish to say, we have not even received the plan yet, we have not studied it yet. Why rush to make concessions? Peace is a serious matter. We are facing difficult and prolonged negotiations. What will we bring to these negotiations? The concessions we have already made? We need patience, perseverance, and the utmost self-control. It is my opinion, therefore, that the foreign minister cannot bring peace. I believe that we, the Likud, can bring peace, if we take the appropriate stand.

[Grossman] To conclude, there is a slim chance that Shultz will succeed. The Jordanians are not cooperating with him, neither are the Palestinians, and some Israelis are not overly enthusiastic. What is going to happen if this initiative fails? Where will we stand then?

[Sharon] We are an ancient people, we have survived for 3,800 years. Our fate does not depend on what will happen during 1988, which is an election year both in Israel and in the United States. We hope to succeed. If we are able to persist in our stance, protecting the Jewish

interests in Israel, we stand a chance. If this does not work, then the process may take more years. We have survived 40 years of relentless wars, we have withstood 100 years of struggle against boundless Arab hostility. Do we not have the stamina to survive longer? Does the Jewish people's strength consist of their ability to survive until November 1988? The Jewish people possess a strength greater than that.

[Grossman] Minister Ari'el Sharon, minister of industry and trade, thank you very much.

[Sharon] Thank you.

2,000 Protest Against Plan

*TA261150 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 26 Feb 88*

[Excerpts] Outside the prime minister's office, as the talks with Shultz took place, some 2,000 people demonstrated against the U.S. initiative. Reporter Sabra Chartrand was there:

[Begin recording] [Chartrand] [Singing heard in background] Hoping their voices would be heard by Secretary of State George Shultz, supporters of the Likud, Tehiya, and Gush Emunim—nearly all wearing skullcaps marking orthodox affiliation—demonstrated their support for Prime Minister Shamir's refusal to negotiate territories for peace. Since the demonstration was aimed at the U.S. diplomat, many of the signs and placards were in English. Some of them read: Stop surrender talks; Refuse suicide for peace; and Shultz, the Arabs already said no. The crowd knelt en masse at one point and kissed the earth in the small park opposite the government building as a display of devotion to the land of Israel.

Tehiya Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen called the rally a protest against negotiations over Judaea and Samaria:

[Kohen] It's not negotiations for peace. It's only a delusion of the issue. This means withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria. We are for negotiating peace for peace, but not peace for pieces of our Holy Land. [passage omitted]

[Chartrand] It's doubtful that Shultz saw the demonstration at all. His curtained sedan left the prime minister's office in a motorcade headed away from the rally. [end recording]

Israeli Arabs Reject U.S. Move

*TA260706 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 26 Feb 88 pp 1, 19*

[Report by David Rudge]

[Excerpts] Nazareth—Israeli Arab activists yesterday rejected the new American peace initiative, charging that any attempt to by-pass the PLO in negotiations was futile and constituted an obstacle to peace.

The message was contained in a declaration signed by heads of Arab local councils, the Progressive List for Peace, and radical Sons of the Village movement, and 28 other public bodies, including the Nazareth-based Prisoners' Friends Association. [passage omitted]

The signatories to the political statement expressed their lack of confidence in Israel, America, Egypt and Jordan - "historic enemies of the Palestinian people" - to institute a just peace. These countries, the declaration said, had their own interests in trying to abort the uprising and in making Palestinians relinquish "right to return," by calling on the PLO to recognize UN Security Council Resolution 242.

The statement said the signatories supported the idea of an international peace conference with the participation of the PLO.

"Palestinians, inside the Green Line or outside, are committed to the search for a just peace which realizes the right of Palestinians to self-determination and to choose the PLO as its sole legitimate representative, and which provides for the establishment of a Palestinian democratic state on national soil," it said.

Organizers said the declaration represented the view of the vast majority of Israeli Arabs who, like Palestinians in the territories, have been banned by the PLO from expressing their opinions directly to visiting Secretary of State George Shultz.

Palestinians Refuse Meeting

TA261145 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Fifteen Palestinians who received invitations to meet U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz insisted today they will not attend. They said they made the decision after consulting with each other. Steve Rodan has more:

[Begin recording] [Rodan] For the last week, Palestinians have made it clear that they would not meet with Secretary Shultz. Still, the U.S. Consulate sent invitations to 15 Palestinians, including AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah, former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa, and, as we hear now, Jerusalem health official Yasir 'Ubayd.

['Ubayd] A week ago we were thinking that it might be wise to meet Mr Shultz and present our views and discuss his views. But after consultations and the decision of the Palestinians that nobody should meet with him alone here—that the meeting can be made outside—everybody agreed that we will not meet here.

[Rodan] Mr 'Ubayd, your voice seems to have a tone of regret. Do you think that...

['Ubayd, interrupting] No, there is no regret at all. Not regret, actually. Dialogue and discussion and presenting views is always beneficial, but here we want to make a point, that meeting with Palestinians should also include official representatives and the legitimately recognized representatives of the Palestinian people also.

[Rodan] Some of those invited said they believed a meeting with Shultz would have been helpful, but the PLO warned against such a step, although it tried hard to convince U.S. officials to have Shultz meet PLO supporters in Amman, but the U.S. refused. [end recording]

Media Comments on Prospects for U.S. Initiative

Likened to Panama Canal Treaty

TA242053 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
24 Feb 88 p A10

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "The Panama Canal Precedent"]

[Text] The "accelerated process" which is the main characteristic of George Shultz's new political initiative essentially proves that this is not a serious initiative. How is it even possible to think that a conflict which has been going on for 40 years can be solved in less than 1 year?

The second prominent characteristic, and perhaps this is the main thing dooming this strange initiative to failure, is the thing which is defined as the basic price for peace: withdrawal from the territories. This proves that the plan is unfair. It is strange that a man like Shultz, who is known for his integrity and fairness, wants to sell to Israel such faulty goods.

"Nothing can be changed in the plan"—this was said in the name of Shultz, or possibly he said this himself. The accelerated timetable must proceed exactly as determined—i.e., the "international event" will be convened during April or May, afterward bilateral committees will discuss the interim arrangement, and in December the negotiations on the final arrangement will commence.

Is this serious?! The United States needed 13 years (!) of difficult negotiations until it even arrived at a draft treaty with Panama on the question of sovereignty in the canal area. The lengthy period was explained by the special sensitivity of all U.S. Administrations to the issue of U.S. national security. How odd: The great super-power feared Panama, located some 1,500 miles from the United States. As everybody knows, the Panamanians are vicious people. They sow terror around the United States and they have a convention which denies the United States' right to exist...

The United States is sensitive to its national security and is unwilling to take any risks. So it happened that after numerous delays the U.S. Senate in 1978 approved by a one-vote majority the agreement with the Panamanian

Government. It stated, however, that the United States will have the right of military intervention in the Panama Canal area in case of emergency even after the canal passes to Panamanian sovereignty in the year 2000. Until 2000 the United States will preserve its control over the canal, including the deployment of an army, some 5,000 soldiers, 250 planes, 20 vessels, and enormous depots for storing thousands of tanks for emergency.

This is the interim arrangement which the United States has guaranteed itself with Panama for a duration of 21 years. Shultz is offering Israel a tottering interim arrangement of several months, and if it is not achieved between April and December then that doesn't make any difference. Nothing must change the accelerated timetable. Shultz believes that in December the negotiations over the permanent arrangement must start.

This is as far as the timetable is concerned. Regarding the substance, the initiators propose to proceed on the principle of "peace in exchange for territories" even before the negotiations have started. Is this to be called fair mediation...

Perhaps the U.S. secretary of state and his associates, who initiated such a fair plan, should be reminded that Judaea and Samaria surround Jerusalem on all sides, and are not located 2000 miles away, which is the distance between Panama and Washington D.C. Does Shultz really not believe—as Henry Kissinger has been saying lately out of deep conviction—that at least parts of Judaea and Samaria are vital for Israel's security? Are "occupied territories" located 5 minutes drive away from Kefar Sava, or 9 miles away from Netanya, less important to Israel's national security than the Panama Canal area, located 1,500 miles away from the United States, is to America?

The interesting point is that at the time the Pentagon said that the Panama Canal is not vital for United States' security.

Shultz probably knows the "secret" which was behind the various U.S. Administrations' insistence on controlling the Panama Canal until the year 2000, and why, despite the fact that the canal is outdated and can be given up in the military conditions of the 80's, the United States has not given up this "interim arrangement" for 21 years. The secret does not concern "national security." It concerns the heavy pressure exerted by the U.S. business community to find a "suitable solution" which would ensure the great profits it makes in Panama, which at present is practically owned by U.S. banks.

Every honest person will admit that Israel is insisting on finding an appropriate solution to the problem of Judaea and Samaria not for the sake of "business," but rather out of real national security interests.

The incidents in the territories, as they are reflected almost daily on television worldwide, the internal pressures, including from the Alignment itself, and the statements of Jewish "leaders" in the United States—all of these things apparently convinced people that this is the right time for a new political initiative. The imaginary building that Shultz has erected, however, has begun tottering even before opening.

It is a fact that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have declared that even though they are in favor of exchanging territories for peace, they are against giving up "all the territories."

Everything goes back to square one: The most moderate Israeli proposal is that of territorial compromise. If this is indeed the Alignment's determined position, then about what and with whom is Shultz coming here to speak? After all, he maintains we should deal with the essence and not the procedures, that is, with "territories in exchange for peace." On what else will King Husayn be willing to talk?

After the U.S. Administration came out with the Reagan plan (in September 1982) Henry Kissinger said: "I believe that the United States has made a mistake. Such a comprehensive orientation may bring about failures and even humiliation without achieving anything."

It looks as though such a definition is also appropriate for the "Shultz plan"...

No Change in U.S. Position

TA251430 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
24 Feb 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The U.S. Rejection"]

[Text] The PLO has never refused to conduct talks with any of the Security Council's five permanent member states. It has consistently worked to have its active diplomacy be in contact with all these countries within the framework of clear Palestinian regulations and principles. The United States, for its part, was and remains the only country that refuses to meet with the PLO. The U.S. reiterates its decision not to recognize the organization. The United States continues its hostile measures to restrict Palestinian national rights, to close the PLO offices in New York, and to obliterate the Palestinian cause on all its dimensions and levels.

During the visit by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to some capitals in the region, the issue has been raised of a meeting in Jerusalem between Shultz and a Palestinian delegation composed of personalities from the occupied territories. Those people concerned immediately announced their national stance in rejecting this meeting as long as the U.S. Administration continues to reject the rights of our Palestinian people and insists on closing the PLO offices in New York.

Nevertheless, in a recent official statement distributed by the Wafa news agency, the PLO expressed its readiness for a Palestinian-U.S. meeting with the participation of leading Palestinian figures from inside and outside the occupied territories, provided that the meeting takes place in any other country but not in Jerusalem. This is an expression of the PLO's sincere and firm desire to advance the peace process in the region. On the other hand, it is a reaffirmation of our Palestinian people's unity both inside and outside the occupied territories.

This unambiguous Palestinian stance confirms that our Palestinian people accept the principle of dialogue and discussion with all parties as long as this acceptance consolidates the way to a comprehensive and just peace in the region. The problem, however, remains with the U.S. position itself. Will the U.S. Administration agree to meet with this proposed Palestinian delegation, which represents our Palestinian people everywhere, within the framework of their legitimate and sole representative, the PLO?

We, at any rate, do not expect any change in the U.S. position at least in the foreseeable future. We realize at the same time that the initiative George Shultz is carrying with him is meant only to support the Israeli position.

Worth 'Serious' Consideration

TA251704 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
25 Feb 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Position Is Clear But No Objection To Studying It"]

[Text] When Israeli Prime Minister Golda Me'ir was asked why she did not reject the Rogers Plan of 1970, she replied that the Arabs would do it for her.

When Israeli Prime Minister Begin was asked in 1982 why he did not reject the Reagan Plan, he said: Israel only has to wait. The Arabs will reject it.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is now arriving with a new initiative. We are certain that this new initiative is for the purpose of extricating Israel, the U.S. ally, from the imbroglio resulting from the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. However, we, as Arabs in general, and Palestinians in particular, are required to study these ideas and proposals seriously and carefully.

The PLO and Jordan have rejected the autonomy Shultz is proposing in his initiative. However, as a preliminary step, there is no objection to studying the U.S. proposals. Of particular interest are the subsequent stages of the proposals, which reportedly include a final solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international peace

conference—despite the fact that the formula of these subsequent stages, as has been reported, includes a compromise that neither achieves nor satisfies either Arab or Israeli demands.

Perhaps what raises doubts about the U.S. initiative is that it has left many sensitive questions unanswered, especially those relating to the international conference, its powers and procedures. Maybe the answers to these questions will come during Shultz's visit to the region.

It should be clear to Shultz and U.S. officials that the Arab consensus perceives the international conference as the only way to a just peace, and one of the basic tasks of this conference would be to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

We, the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, can only wait and anticipate, hoping that there will be a unified Arab and Palestinian position and response. Interim solutions are rejected. The only acceptable solution is a pan-Arab solution in the entire sense. Let us prove to Israel's leaders as well as to U.S. officials that the Arab concept does not intimate, as before, a prior rejection.

Palestinian Rights Stressed

TA251458 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
25 Feb 88 p 1

[Editorial in English: "We Want Real Peace"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is in town to help initiate a process he believes can bring peace to our troubled region. In order to succeed Secretary Shultz must restore U.S. credibility in the Palestinian camp.

However, it seems Secretary Shultz is coming having misunderstood the message Palestinians recently conveyed to him in Washington. They gave him a statement outlining Palestinian aspirations including the right of self-determination and an end to the Israeli occupation achieved through negotiations in an international conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the concerned parties, including both the PLO and Israel. In addition, Shultz received a 14-point memorandum from the Palestinian national institutions in the occupied territories suggesting ways in which the U.S. could regain credibility with the Palestinians.

Now that Shultz is coming to discuss the national rights of the Palestinian people, he should do so in the form of a meeting with a Palestinian delegation, comprised not only of a part of our people, but representing the entire spectrum, both those inside the occupied territories and those outside. Such a delegation in order to be credible should be nominated by the leadership of the Palestinians, the PLO.

We do not refuse to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, nor with any concerned party for that matter, but we cannot negotiate peace with someone who does not recognize the basic right of our people to self-determination.

While the Palestinians have been voicing their desire for a peaceful political settlement—and have changed their 1967 Khartoum “no” to “yes”—it has been Israeli refusals which have continued to impede the peace process. They now say “no” to land for peace, “no” to negotiations with the PLO and “no” to recognition of Palestinian national rights.

No one knows better than we the seriousness of the situation. Of all people in the world, the Palestinian people are those most anxious to achieve a political settlement for we are the ones suffering most as a result of the current political impasse.

We hope that the U.S. will recognize the new realities in the region. The establishment of real peace is certainly in the best interest of everyone, particularly the Palestinians and Israelis. Let us hope the U.S. Administration will employ more wisdom in its mission and acknowledge that no peace can be achieved in the area without recognizing the national rights of the Palestinians.

PLO Rapprochement ‘Objective’

TA261031 Tel Aviv ‘AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
26 Feb 88 pp 1, 4

[Report by Pinhas ‘Inbari and Uri Horowitz]

[Excerpt] The U.S. secretary of state and PLO leader Yasir ‘Arafat may confer in Cairo if indirect negotiations between the United States and the PLO succeed. The key condition set by the United States for such a meeting is a clear PLO recognition of Israel.

‘Arafat has previously been very close to formulations recognizing Israel, as in the joint statement issued with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu in Bucharest more than 6 months ago, and on other occasions. For the purpose of this meeting the United States separates the matter of recognizing UN Resolution 242. It is keeping this issue aside for the purpose of PLO participation in an international conference.

If the PLO is unable to formulate a clear-cut announcement on recognizing Israel, or if it comes up with a less clear declaration, a lower level representation may be determined for the meeting with Shultz. A possibility for this would be a Palestinian delegation led by Abu Mazin [Mahmud ‘Abbas], or Palestinians holding senior positions in the PNC who are not members of the PLO proper. Our correspondent assesses that contacts on the Shultz-‘Arafat meeting began in Moscow, in the course of Shultz’ talks at the Kremlin. The Soviets are apparently interested in this meeting, and promised to aid in bringing it about.

Our correspondent explains that the latest developments clarify the true objective of the Shultz initiative, which is, probably, to lead to a rapprochement between the Likud and the PLO. This is apparently the reason for the skepticism which the initiative has met in the Middle East, and for King Husayn’s cool attitude.

The Labor Party’s Shim’on Peres is also reserved about the U.S. initiative, despite his public support and his efforts to coordinate the meetings with Shultz with Shamir. These efforts are aimed instead at keeping the Labor Party in the picture of the political process. His recent declarations too, on the impossibility of talking with the PLO, are apparently aimed at blocking Shamir on this matter, if it transpires that this is indeed Shultz’ goal.

The Americans apparently decided to follow this line in the wake of Mubarak’s trip to Washington, and after it was made clear to them that it is Iranian and Syrian supporters who are taking over the uprising in the territories. This development greatly worries Egypt, as well as the United States. The Americans assess that only ‘Arafat can curb this erosion. This is apparently also the reason that in contacts on formulating a petition which was supposed to be submitted to Shultz by a delegation of the territories, a clause was included calling for a cease-fire between the PLO and Israel in exchange for recognizing the principle of self-determination for the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Peres on Security, Political Solution to Unrest

PM221404 Paris LIBERATION in French
17 Feb 88 pp 18, 19

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim’on Peres by Marc Kravetz in Jerusalem—date not given]

[Text] LIBERATION: There seems to have been a real political vacuum in Israel for more than 2 months over the situation in the occupied territories, as if Israel’s only response to the Palestinians’ revolt was military repression.

Shim’on Peres: There are two different things. The first concerns security problems on which we are, in theory, united, and the second concerns the political question, on which we are completely divided (within the National Unity Government—LIBERATION editor’s note). I do not know whether it will be possible to find a minimum of agreement between us, or whether we will have to wait for the elections. Our disagreements are deep, they relate to philosophy, ideology, and politics. The military problem is just one aspect of the situation, possibly not the most important.

LIBERATION: The Israeli army has recently been severely criticized for the injustice and ill-treatment with which it has put down the demonstrations on the West Bank and in Gaza.

Shim'on Peres: I would first like to say that I agree with the aim which, we must remember, is to save Arab and non-Arab lives. It is for the same reason that, in 40 years, we have never executed a single Arab, despite five wars and despite terrorism. I am not saying that there have not been excesses in the present situation, which I deeply regret. Nonetheless, despite the complexity of these riots, the main thing is to save lives.

But we must also consider the nature of the problem. These events surprised everybody, on both sides, and I do not think that we clearly understood what was happening at the beginning. It took time to find a suitable means of response conforming to two other principles: First, there can be no military solution to the problem. Second, there is a moral limit to military action. I think that these two principles are generally respected. Of course, the situation is not pleasant or comfortable for our officers and our soldiers.

I have also seen that some French newspapers compared what is happening here with what happened in Algeria or Indochina. It is not the same thing at all. We did not enter the West Bank to colonize it, but because we were attacked by King Husayn and his army in 1967. We certainly did not try to seize these territories. Today, we are still seeking a political solution, although we are divided on the nature of that solution.

LIBERATION: The reference to the war in Algeria also relates to the moral effect on the army of a democratic country of having to carry out repressive actions against civilians.

Shim'on Peres: We are fully aware of that, and that is why, I repeat, the solution can only be political and not military.

LIBERATION: Secretary of State George Shultz will be in the region, particularly in Israel, at the end of this month to explain the new U.S. initiative. You initiated a proposal for an international conference to start the peace process in the Near East. What do you think of the U.S. position?

Shim'on Peres: I fully agree with the Shultz initiative. Unlike many other countries, Israel has never sought the aid of foreign armies to defend itself, but has always sought the aid of foreign diplomats to move toward peace in the Near East. With regard to the international conference, the Americans now call it an "international event" (opening peace negotiations—**LIBERATION** editor's note), but we are talking about the same thing.

Israel has a clear choice. In my view, we can open negotiations with the PLO without first holding an international conference, but such a conference is vital if we want to negotiate with Jordan. It is obviously easier in the first case than in the second. But, despite everything, I prefer to negotiate with a Jordanian-Palestinian

delegation, via an international conference, than to negotiate with the PLO. Why? Because no agreement with the PLO can be envisaged, whereas with Jordan it will be possible to achieve a final agreement, although things may be difficult at first.

I think that the Americans share this view and I think that that is why they advocated the start of international negotiations. In addition, and possibly to facilitate the participation of Likud (current Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's party—**LIBERATION** editor's note), the Americans have advocated autonomy (in the occupied territories—**LIBERATION** editor's note) as a transitional solution. But to "sell" this solution to Jordan, it will also be necessary to define the permanent solution envisaged. Indeed, there is no chance of Jordan—or any other Arab country—accepting a transitional solution without first clarifying the comprehensive solution.

LIBERATION: The idea of autonomy, which you call a transitional solution, could also be presented as an immediate response to the situation in the field.

Shim'on Peres: I do not think we should be bound by the present situation. The same thing could be said of terrorism. We will not begin negotiations while terrorism exists. This is a ridiculous viewpoint. We must start negotiations and launch the peace process, without any preconditions concerning what is happening in the field. Otherwise, we can make the problem continue indefinitely, that is not difficult. If we took that attitude, 10 young people with 10 stones and 10 television networks to watch them, could make the problem insoluble for another 10 years.

LIBERATION: You say it is impossible to have serious negotiations with the PLO. However, the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza do not identify with Jordan but with the PLO.

Shim'on Peres: That is true, but we are not dealing with a democratic system in the Arab world. The problem is not who represents whom, but who controls what. Who can decide, choose, and implement his choices? I do not think this is true of the PLO. We cannot negotiate with the PLO because that would mean negotiating on a Palestinian state with a Palestinian army situated a few hundred meters from this office—a state which would probably be pro-Soviet. You will not find any Israeli who would accept that.

With Jordan or with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, other options would be open, for instance the demilitarization of the West Bank. Those in Israel who oppose a territorial compromise do so for different reasons. Some people invoke the Bible, others Israel's security. The first is a religious viewpoint, the second a strategic issue.

LIBERATION: Do you envisage the USSR's participation in this international conference and, if so, in what form?

Shim'on Peres: There is a direct relationship between the type of power granted to this conference and the USSR's participation. Provided there is agreement to set clear limits on the conference's authority, the question of who participates in it is less important. If it is agreed that the conference cannot impose a solution or veto an agreement between the two sides, and if it is also agreed that the negotiations must be bilateral for each geographical area without the international conference interfering, I think that the problem of the USSR's participation is much less complicated than before.

LIBERATION: Do you want it to participate?

Shim'on Peres: What I want is direct negotiations. The aim of the international conference is to enable Jordan's participation. The Soviets have not clearly defined their position on this conference, but I think that if we reach agreement on holding it, they will rally round, to avoid staying away and leaving the Americans alone.

LIBERATION: Do you not think that a Soviet guarantee is necessary for any final agreement?

Shim'on Peres: The only guarantee is peace itself. Indeed, I cannot conceive of peaceful relations between the two sides being subject to a guarantee from a third party. There is either peace or war. There is no third option.

Egypt Withholds Invitation to Cairo Trade Fair

TA251441 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
25 Feb 88 p A7

[Report by Shefi Gabay]

[Text] For the first time since the peace treaty was signed, Egypt has not invited Israel to attend the International Trade Fair in Cairo which opens on March 12. Egypt explained its decision by citing acts of repression in the territories and Israel's hardening position regarding the solution to the Palestinian problem.

Official spokesmen in Cairo told correspondents that Israel asked to participate in the international fair, just as it had done in previous years. The request was handed to the Egyptian Economy and Foreign Trade Ministry, but this time it was decided to pass it on to Foreign Ministry and security authorities.

According to the correspondents the Foreign Ministry decided not to recommend approval of the request, and the security authorities expressed deep concern over the possibility of violent demonstrations that could harm the fair itself.

The large Israeli pavilion, which has been constructed for all previous Cairo trade fairs, has aroused the curiosity of many Egyptians and Arabs from other countries.

Visit by Swiss Reserve Officers Canceled

TA251502 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR
in Hebrew 25 Feb 88 p 4

[Report from Switzerland by Yosef Alpern]

[Text] Geneva—The Swiss Foreign Ministry has canceled a tour by 180 reserve officers that was to be held at the beginning of next month. The tour was canceled against the background of the situation in the territories. The tour was organized by the Association of Swiss Reserve Officers, which is a private organization.

The PLO representative in Geneva was content about the cancellation of the tour. "Such a tour, if it were held, would have been interpreted as Switzerland's support for suppressing the Palestinian people in the territories."

RSA Representative Summoned for Official Protest

TA251810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] The Jerusalem Foreign Ministry has deplored the RSA Government's order restricting the activity of 17 anti-apartheid organizations. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the RSA Embassy representative was summoned to the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry where he was told that the order may exacerbate violence in his country.

Dr Alon Li'el, head of the Foreign Ministry's South Africa desk, expressed Israel's regret at the RSA Government's negation of the rights of blacks and its policy of ignoring worldwide protests. A similar protest was expressed today to RSA representatives in Western countries as well.

Vanunu Remanded in Custody; Verdict in 4 Weeks

TA260838 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0730 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Supreme Justice Eli'ezer Goldberg remanded Mordekhay Vanunu in custody for a further 3 months. Our correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack reports that strict precautionary measures were taken inside and outside the court so as to prevent any contact between Vanunu and the numerous journalists and paparazzi.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT adds: "The verdict in the Vanunu trial will be given in 4 weeks. Representatives of the State Attorney's Office gave a statement to this effect in the Supreme Court this morning."]

IDF Not To 'Recoil' From Enforcing Order

TA261230 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1105 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] The political process has begun. Violence should be stopped, but the process continued. We will not recoil from doing everything to achieve quiet and security, says

Major General Mitzna', commander of the Central Command. We have many measures, limitations, and sanctions we can use if necessary. Gen Mitzna' made these remarks in an interview with Edmond Sehayek, the director of the Voice of Israel's Arabic-language department. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe brings a summary of the interview.

[Begin recording] [Menashe] The IDF, says Gen Mitzna', reacted in the past, is reacting in the present, and will continue to react with all severity. It will find those responsible for the Qabatiyah affair and punish them fully.

[Mitzna'] An agitated Qabatiyah mob took part in the incident. According to our estimates several hundred participated, rather than thousands as has been reported. This mob had been instigated by a smaller group, and we will deal with that small group which incited the hundreds to go out into the streets and riot. The village of Qabatiyah itself will also be punished.

[Menashe] The continued state of violence may force us to use more sanctions and employ other punitive measures.

[Mitzna'] Despite the current possibility of a political process, we will not recoil from doing everything possible to achieve a reasonable degree of calm and security for all those who live and operate in this area. There is the political process. Violence must therefore be stopped, and the process continued. [end recording]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Soldier Sentenced for 'Torturing'

TA261105 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
26 Feb 88 p A5

[Report by David Zohar]

[Excerpt] "Acts of assault upon residents of the territories cause grave damage to the state and to the IDF. Soldiers must not resort to independent punitive actions." This was the warning issued yesterday by three Haifa Military Court justices in the verdict in the case of an IDF sergeant whom they sentenced to 2 months in prison and to a demotion to the rank of private. He was indicted on charges of torturing a Gaza resident. [passage omitted]

IDF Officer 'Transferred'

TA260543 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] An Army officer involved in dispersing a riot in Gaza yesterday evening [as heard], in which an Arab youth was seriously wounded, has been transferred from his post. The military police are investigating the incident, which occurred at the Al-Shati' refugee camp.

Mitzna' Discharges Officer

TA251408 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
25 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, has discharged a major who was involved in a shooting incident in which seven people were wounded.

The incident took place in the village of Al-Fawwar in the Hebron District, and ensuing debriefings raised doubts about the performance of the officer.

The incident is still under military police investigation. Once the investigation is completed, measures against those involved will be determined.

Police To Receive Complaints

TA260830 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Brigadier General David Yahav, the legal adviser of the Judea and Samaria Headquarters, has instructed area district police commanders to receive residents' complaints against soldiers stationed in the territories.

Our correspondent Gil'ad Sher has learned that Judea and Samaria police stations have been ordered to take down plaintiffs' statements, file complaints, and collect testimonies regarding property or physical damage caused by the soldiers. The complaints will be transferred to the Judea and Samaria legal adviser who will then decide whether the complaints warrant legal action.

Youth Killed in Nabulus

TA251842 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Text] Another person was killed in today's riots in Judea and Samaria. During disturbances in Nabulus today, an IDF force found itself in danger. The soldiers had to resort to weapon fire, as a result of which a local resident was killed and another injured.

Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat notes that two people were killed in Judea and Samaria today. In the first case an 18-year-old youth who was among rioters in Janin was killed.

Investigation Launched

TA260532 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] The body of a 14-year old Arab youth who had been shot was brought to the Nabulus hospital yesterday evening. The authorities are investigating the circumstances of his killing.

6 Golan Druze Detained

TA260642 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0600 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Last night the police detained six more Golan Heights Druze suspected of having taken part in the Golan annexation anniversary riots. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that a total of 50 persons have been detained in the wake of these riots.

Third W. Bank Resident Killed

TA260954 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
26 Feb 88 p 5

[Report by Oren Kohen, Tzvi Gilat, and Shim'on Elqabetz]

[Excerpts] Three people were killed and many wounded yesterday during clashes that centered mainly in Samaria. The broad wave of disturbances was directed primarily against Secretary of State George Shultz' visit and the peace initiative. The defense establishment is concerned that this new wave might intensify in the next few days. The IDF has consequently beefed up its presence in the area. At the same time, the full commercial strike in the West Bank is continuing. [passage omitted]

Another of yesterday's casualties is Yusuf Tawfiq Zayd al-Kilani, a 21-year old resident of the village of Ya'bad who was hit by an IDF jeep. Local residents said that soldiers had stopped him to clear a roadblock in the village of Jaba'. He resisted and the soldiers instructed him to get back into his car and turn around. He waited in his car and a Border Police vehicle approaching from behind hit the car and killed him. Military sources maintain that this was an accident. [passage omitted]

Incidents in Gaza, Triangle

TA261041 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT
26 Feb 88

[Text] This is an update on the current situation in the territories: A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an IDF patrol in the outskirts of Gaza. The bomb exploded on the road, causing no damage.

Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that prayers in mosques are proceeding normally, and quiet is being generally maintained. Security forces in the Gaza Strip and in Judea and Samaria are well prepared for any development.

Four youths from the village of Umm al-Fahm were detained today. They are suspected of having erected a stone barrier at the entrance to the Me 'Ammi settlement.

In recent hours, PLO flags were hoisted on the Gilboa' [mountain] and in the Triangle village of Burqa.

Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports that dozens of Triangle local council heads and several Jewish public figures are now meeting in Kibbutz Mezer to discuss ways to restore quiet to the Arab villages of the north.

Riots on Temple Mount

TA261221 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] In East Jerusalem there were several cases of rioting after the Friday prayers in the mosques. Several dozen youths held a mock funeral for the PLO men killed in Cyprus. Near the Dome of the Rock there was also a riot, during which several hundred people burned the Israeli flag. The police, although in greater numbers than usual, refrained from interfering or reacting. Several children attempted to throw stones at the policemen, and again the police abstained from taking any action. The above was reported by our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum.

In the Christian Quarter, stones were thrown and the Israeli flag was burned near the memorial erected for Yig'al Shahaf, who was murdered there several months ago. Four youths were detained.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 26 February carries a report from the Temple Mount which adds: "Two youths were arrested a short time ago at Lion's Gate, carrying spiked instruments that fit over the knuckles. The police spokesman says they had other inciting materials, but did not elaborate."]

1 Killed, 4 Wounded in Hebron

TA261335 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] One man was killed and four wounded during riots in Hebron this afternoon. Two people were wounded slightly in Halhul.

A military source told our correspondent Moti Amir that hundreds of people who had left Hebron mosques after Friday prayers started to hurl stones and Molotov cocktails at an IDF patrol. The soldiers tried to disperse them with tear gas and rubber bullets, but the angry mob continued to throw stones and firebombs. The soldiers fired in the air and warned the rioters, but when this failed they fired at the rioters' legs. One youth was killed and four others were wounded.

Two inhabitants of Halhul were wounded slightly during a violent demonstration.

Elsewhere, a vehicle belonging to Knesset Member Rabbi Eli'ezer Waldman was stoned at noon near Halhul. The vehicle was slightly damaged but nobody was injured. The passengers chased the stone throwers into two houses and carried out searches, but failed to catch them.

Unrest in Gaza; Curfews

TA261346 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] There were attempts to stir up unrest following prayers in Gaza Strip mosques today, with gatherings, stonings, and tire burnings reported in several places in the region. IDF forces put down the attempts before they developed into violent riots.

IDF forces last night arrested three residents of the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp who were thought to be preparing to riot today. A curfew was imposed on the camp.

Our correspondent points out that the Al-Shati', Al-Nusayrat, and Dayr al-Balah refugee camps are now under curfew. The curfew on the Rafah refugee camp was lifted in the afternoon. Some 80,000 people live in the camps under curfew.

'Failure' in Qabatiyah Noted

TA261051 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
26 Feb 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Gid'on Meron, 'Imanu'el Rosen, Avi Morgenstern, and Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpt] The IDF did not enter Qabatiyah when residents were lynching Muhammad 'Ayad, although it had known of events there. The decision not to intervene stemmed from the fear of a bloody battle developing in the village alleys with thousands of rioters.

It is possible that the success of the rioters will encourage attacks on many collaborators who are well-known in the villages. The IDF's failure to guard the life of the man in Qabatiyah may cost dearly. It is feared that a system that had been built with a great deal of toil will collapse. Yesterday, in order to regain the effect of deterrent, the IDF swiftly detained 100 inhabitants suspected of involvement in the murder. The houses of two of them were torn down.

One of the area Village Leagues leaders in Samaria said yesterday that in Qabatiyah Israel proved its helplessness and gave rise to distrust among its few supporters: "You are capable of risking whole units, pilots, and equipment to rescue a single wounded soldier, but when it comes to Arabs you do not care."

Initial reports regarding the event were received at the Janin regional command after the attacked man fired in self defense, killing a 14-year-old child [as published] with the weapon he was legally equipped with by the Israeli authorities. His wife also called the police for help in view of the mass rioting. An IDF helicopter was launched to fly over the village and disperse tear gas over the rioters, but they were not pushed back.

"The villain with whom we settled accounts yesterday is only the first. He had it coming. Anybody who works with Israel will find himself hanging on an electricity pole," a 27-year-old Qabatiyah resident, who was one of the participants in the lynching, said yesterday. The lynching was perpetrated because, in the opinion of Qabatiyah residents, Muhammad 'Ayad collaborated with Israel. [passage omitted]

AL-RA'Y Carries 'Open Letter' to Shultz
JN251127 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
25 Feb 88 p 13

["Open letter to the U.S. Secretary of State" by Lawyer Ibrahim Bakr]

[Text] I address this letter on the occasion of the visits to some Arab states and to the Israeli occupation state by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz. I did not mention Shultz, who currently occupies the post of secretary of state, as the addressee, because the contents of the letter are addressed to all U.S. secretaries of state who have occupied this post since the establishment of the Israeli occupation state on 15 May 1948.

The letter is also addressed to the U.S. secretaries of state who will succeed Shultz until the United States recognizes the Palestinian Arab people, their right to self-determination on their own land in Palestine, and their right to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian territory and also until the United States recognizes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

However, it is noteworthy here that George Shultz was different from previous U.S. secretaries of state in regard to the Palestine question. This is because Palestinians among contracting company owners and other Palestinians were optimistic when Shultz became secretary of state in view of their personal acquaintance with him when he was the chairman of the board of directors of the U.S. Bechtel engineering and contracting company, which implemented a number of engineering and construction contracts in some Arab countries.

While in this position, Shultz met with a number of contractors, engineers, and lawyers and relations of personal friendship developed between him and some of them. Thus, and more than any other U.S. secretary of state, Shultz had the opportunity of becoming personally acquainted with the tragedy of the Palestinian Arab people.

Moreover, Shultz' personal friends made attempts in the early phases following his assumption of the state secretary's post to initiate contacts between the PLO leadership and the U.S. Government. But despite the seriousness of such efforts and despite the concessions made to gain the U.S. Government's satisfaction, Shultz soon disappointed his Palestinian friends and he even closed the door of his department before them.

I mentioned the above to reach a realistic conclusion that Shultz has surpassed his predecessors in showing hostility to the Palestinian Arab people. He was so hostile he ordered the closure of the PLO office in Washington. This office had been in Washington for several years. Moreover, he requested the closure of the PLO office at the United Nations in New York. This office has been open since the PLO's admission to the UN bodies as an observer.

Mr Secretary of State, why did you choose this particular time to launch a political move on the Palestine question following a lengthy slumber, especially since the current U.S. Administration, to which you belong, will end its term in a few months? What are the plans, initiatives, or ideas you are carrying in your briefcase?

Successive U.S. Administrations love to raise the slogan of human rights. They also love to raise the slogan of international legitimacy. They inaugurate the United States as the defender of human rights and the protector of international legitimacy in the world.

I will, therefore, be committed in this letter to addressing you from the bases of human rights and international legitimacy, not from the bases of the Palestinian National Charter and the Palestinians' and Arabs' national right to all Palestine.

Mr Secretary, you have moved now to save the reputation of Israel, the U.S. strategic ally, after the blessed Palestinian uprising had succeeded in disclosing the fascist reality of Israel to world and U.S. public opinion and after the courageous uprising had returned the cause of the Palestinian Arab people to the first place in world interest.

Therefore, the purpose of your move is to contain and abort the uprising and cause divisions in Palestinian ranks in particular and Arab ranks in general.

Definitely your briefcase does not contain UN General Assembly Resolution No 181 adopted in 28 November 1947, of which the United States was the godfather. You did not bring this resolution with you, although it represents the international legitimacy of the creation of the State of Israel on 15 May 1948 and the creation of the Palestinian Arab state that should also have been created on 15 May 1948.

You did not bring this resolution because it is built on the principle of the existence of two peoples in Palestine—the Palestinian Arab people and the Jewish people—and because it provides for the division of Palestine into two almost equal parts between the two peoples.

You did not bring it because its implementation would result in Israel's withdrawal not only from the West Bank and Gaza, but also from the territories it occupied from the Palestinian state including western Galilee and the area extending from Jerusalem to the Palestinian coast on the Mediterranean, which includes the Palestinian cities of Nazareth, Acre, Jaffa, Lydda, Ramla, and large parts of the Hebron and Gaza regions, in addition to hundreds of villages.

You did not bring this resolution because in it, the United States recognizes the existence of the Palestinian Arab people and their state, the creation of which, on approximately half the area of Palestine, was given international legitimacy 40 years ago.

You know, Mr Secretary, that the United States colluded with Israel's rulers not to implement Resolution No 181 and then to throw it in the trash. In its Resolution No 186 dated 14 May 1948, the UN General Assembly appointed Count Bernadotte to be an international mediator.

On 16 September 1948 he forwarded a report to the General Assembly containing extremely important issues, at the top of which was the return of Palestinian refugees to their homes in the part of Palestine that had fallen under Jewish control. But the Zionists assassinated him in broad daylight on the day following the submission of his report. The United States prevented the necessary political punishment of Israel.

Thus the Zionist leaders silenced forever a distinguished international figure who for 4 months was an eyewitness to the Nazi-type crimes perpetrated against the unarmed Palestinian Arab people—crimes with which they inaugurated the birth of their State of Israel.

Then followed the three-member reconciliation commission, which comprised representatives of the Governments of the United States, France, and Turkey appointed in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution No 194/3 dated 11 December 1948 and charged with the implementation of Resolution No 181 and other resolutions on the repatriation of the Palestinian refugees to their homes wherever they are in all of Palestine. According to State Department documents, the only achievement of that ill-reputed commission was to serve Israel.

The commission lured the governments of the four Arab countries neighboring Palestine to negotiate with the Government of Israel through that commission. The negotiations produced the Lausanne Protocol signed on 12 May 1949, in which the Arab and Israeli sides declared their intention to implement Resolution No 181 and other resolutions on the repatriation of the refugees. Israel joined the United Nations on the basis of that protocol, but evaded it immediately afterward and refused to implement Resolution No 181. It also refused to implement the resolutions on the refugees' repatriation.

The three-member reconciliation committee wasted many years to cover up for the Israeli stand, thanks to U.S. chairmanship of the commission. The commission's mission gradually shrank until it was reduced to the minor task of releasing the funds frozen in foreign banks in Israel and held by some Palestinian depositors.

Theoretically, the commission still exists. There has been no UN General Assembly resolution abolishing it and Resolution No 181, on establishing a Palestinian Arab state on about half of the area of Palestine, still exists.

Definitely, Mr Secretary, your briefcase does not contain the papers of UN mediator Gunnar Jarring, who was appointed in accordance with UN Security Council

Resolution No 242 adopted on 22 November 1967. Such papers contain the bases laid down by Gunnar Jarring to implement Resolution No 242.

That is because such bases are incompatible with the U.S.-Israeli concept of UN Security Council Resolution No 242. You know, Mr Secretary of State, from U.S. State Department documents, how the United States and Israel turned the UN mediator's mission into a farce until the international mediator, after years of hard work, decided it was more dignified to step down from the mission with which he was charged.

Definitely, Mr Secretary, you have brought with you a new edition of the Palestinian part of the Camp David decisions knowing that these decisions clearly endorsed the U.S.-Israeli interpretation of Resolution No 242, an interpretation accepted by President al-Sadat. That interpretation is based on the following:

1. There is no Palestinian Arab people, but there is an Arab population in the occupied territory which is confined to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
2. The Arab population has no sovereignty over the occupied territory during the transition period, for the occupied territory will continue to be controlled by the Israeli military occupation authorities.
3. The establishment of an autonomy for a transitional period is confined to the population only and not including the land or water resources.
4. The Israeli Government will have the right to exercise a veto if the wishes of the population at the end of the transition period conflict with Israel's interests and security. That means the occupied territory will remain under Israeli sovereignty and the continuation of Jewish settlement and Israeli threats.

As you very well know, Mr Secretary, the aforementioned bases entail the abolition of the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination and consequently the abolition of the right to establish a Palestinian state and the abolition of the Palestinian refugees' right to repatriation. That means the obliteration of the Palestinian Arab people from the world and the settlement of Palestinian refugees wherever they may be in Arab countries and in other countries.

The roots of the Palestinian Arab people run deep in Palestine. They were there before the birth of Abraham, the father of the prophets; before the birth of Moses, the father of the Jews; and before the Jews became known in history.

The Palestinian Arab people are the descendents of all the peoples that lived in Palestine, the Jebusites, the Canaanites, the Arameans, the ancient Arabs, the Jews, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Persians, the Greeks, the Byzantines, the Muslim Arab conquerors, and the Crusaders.

The Palestinians are not inhabitants of the occupied territory but its people. The inhabitants are the Israeli Jews who were imposed on the people of Palestine with the force of British weapons initially and subsequently with the force of U.S. weapons, funds, and so on and so forth.

Or do you want us to believe the myth of the Promised Land and to believe that all members of the Jewish faith have a right in Palestine because it is said a Jewish temple once stood there?

Does the presence of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, the Church of Nativity in Bethlehem, the Al-Bisharah Church in Nazareth make Palestine a homeland for all the Christians of the world?

Does the presence of the Mecca and Medina mosques make the Hijaz a homeland for all the world's Muslims?

If the Khazars in the past embraced Judaism, does that mean their descendants—the Jews of Eastern and Western Europe and America, and their descendants, the fair-skinned and blue-eyed Ashkenazi Jews—are the true owners of Palestine just because they are Jews and that they have the right to come to Palestine at any time to settle in it in accordance with Israel's Law of Return?

For many years the United States has been leading a campaign to put pressure on the Soviet Union to allow the emigration to Palestine of 2 million Jews who are the descendants of the Khazar Jews, whereas the United States disavows the right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homes in Palestine.

That is not all. You know well, Mr Secretary of State, that your state protects Israel's disregard for international law, UN resolutions, and the fourth Geneva convention. Your state even goes far beyond this protection. It finances the building of settlements and Judaization. It also supplies Israel with the most sophisticated weapons of annihilation and destruction which were tested for the first time on the heads of Palestinian refugees in their camps in Lebanon and the Beirut suburbs.

Mr Secretary of State, where are the human rights principles and the bases of international legality? Is this merchandise not suitable for the Palestinian people but only for any fascist, criminal regime allied to the United States led by the Israeli rule in Palestine, the racist white rule in South Africa, and any despotic, sanguinous regime, as well as any counterrevolution in the Third World, such as the Pinochet regime in Chile and the CIA-led counterrevolutions in Nicaragua, Angola, and Mozambique for example?

Mr Secretary of State, your state colluded with the Israeli rulers in implementing the scheme of intensive deportations from the West Bank. The Israeli rulers imagined that deporting public opinion leaders from the West Bank would make it easy to annex this bank. On this basis, more than 2,000 people have thus far been

deported from the West Bank since 1967. But the powerful Palestinian uprising came to prove that the deportation scheme met grave failure.

The U.S.-Israeli alliance, which persists in ignoring the PLO, is searching for a Palestinian alternative to sign a document of capitulation, just as the Nazi rule was searching for agents similar to Quisling!

But why, Mr Secretary of State, does your state refuse to deal with the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people? Is it because of your claim, which you do not believe, that the PLO is a terrorist organization? There is no comparison between the terrorism the PLO practices and the state terrorism which both the United States and Israel are practicing.

Have you not learned, Mr Secretary of State, that the ultra-religious Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip bury Palestinians alive in cooperation with Israeli military men? We read and hear about the Nazi terrorism which Hitlerite Germany pursued against the European peoples subjected to occupation, including the Jews. Yet, Jewish terrorism has been seen by the naked eye since the State of Israel was established. Such terrorism is currently being pursued on a large-scale basis on the streets of cities and villages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Do U.S. norms permit terrorism against the Palestinian Arab people and allow the Jews to do what a Nazi is not permitted to do?

I now return to the subject of your rejection to deal with the PLO in its capacity as the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative to ask a second question:

Is it because the national Palestinian Charter stipulates that all of Palestine belongs to the Palestinian Arab people, thus meaning that the PLO's aim is to terminate the State of Israel, that the United States and Israel stipulate the modification of the charter as a precondition?

In contrast, why does the United States ignore the official and practical Israeli denial of the Palestinian Arab people's existence and all their rights as well as the Israeli claim that the borders of Greater Israel are not confined to all Palestine? This is Greater Israel whose borders are not known and to which Israel has added the Syrian Golan. Why does the United States not ask the Israeli rulers to practically and officially stop setting up this Greater Israel?

Mr Secretary, your country, America, is the Palestinian Arab people's adversary and the adversary cannot be an arbiter. However, if your government or any future U.S. government seeks a Palestinian interlocutor who is authorized to take a decision, then the sole Palestinian interlocutor is the PLO.

As is known in international relations, it is the warring parties that negotiate and since it is the Palestinian Arab people who are fighting Israel and since the Palestinian people's leadership is the PLO, do, Mr Secretary, enter houses from their doors and not through their windows at one time and their sewers at another. Israel is not being fought by those handful of people called the Village Leagues or those called moderate Palestinians. None of those will hold a dialogue on behalf of the Palestinian Arab people.

You must know, Mr Secretary, that the Palestinian population was 1.5 million when the state of Israel was established and is now more than 4 million, 1.5 million of whom are in Palestine. These people are one whether they are living inside or outside Palestine. They are cohesive and united and enjoy a great capacity to endure. Continuous struggle has become part of the pattern of life dictated on them by the U.S.-Israeli alliance.

Mr Secretary, it greatly pleases me to tell you that total failure will be the result of your unholy mission to circumvent or foil the Palestinian Arab people's uprising or split Palestinian ranks.

Al-Rifa'i Briefs House on Moves Since 'Uprising'
JN251811 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] This afternoon the House of Representatives held a closed session of over 2 and 1/2 hours chaired by its speaker, 'Akif al-Fayiz, and attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, who outlined Jordan's position since the blessed uprising of the Arab people in the occupied territory.

The prime minister explained at length Jordan's moves led by His Majesty King Husayn to promote a united Arab stand in support of the uprising and to obtain international support for it and the cause of the Palestinian Arab people, which has produced a united stance by the EC foreign ministers in Bonn condemning the Israeli occupation and backing the Arab call for an international peace conference.

The prime minister detailed Jordan's contacts with Arab brothers in Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the PLO concerning international moves in light of the popular uprising, including U.S. ideas and letters brought by American and Soviet envoys to His Majesty King Husayn and other Arab leaders.

The prime minister emphasized that, guided by his majesty's directives, Jordan will continue to brief Arab leaders on developments in the situation to ensure a united Arab stand on the cause of the Palestinian Arab people and a just, lasting peace in the region.

Meanwhile, a number of the deputies, commenting on the prime minister's statements, lauded Jordan's responsible, pan-Arab stand, led by His Majesty King Husayn.

At the end of the closed session, House Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz expressed the House of Representatives' appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's efforts on behalf of his nation and its pan-Arab causes, above all, the Palestinian cause. He voiced his appreciation and that of the House for the government's efforts and the prime minister's explanation of Jordan's position in all its dimensions.

Al-Masri Returns From YAR; Talks Detailed
JN242146 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Amman—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and the Jordanian delegation returned to Amman this afternoon from Sanaa following a 3-day official visit to the YAR.

During this visit, Al-Masri met with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani. Al-Masri also headed the Jordanian side in the meetings of the second session of the Joint Jordanian-Yemeni Higher Committee, which has been entrusted to develop mutual cooperation between both countries in various fields.

Regarding the committee's work and decisions, the secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and member of the Higher Committee said the discussions between the two sides were successful and covered all fields of cooperation. He said among the important decisions made by the committee in the economic field and trade exchange, the Yemeni side agreed to issue import permits for regional commodities covered by contracts between the two sides amounting to \$10 million.

The two sides also agreed to encourage trade as well as exchange export-import commodity lists and give them priority in their import plans over similar commodities from other countries.

The Yemeni side requested 500 Jordanian teachers for the 1988-1989 school year. This number will be increased to 2,000 teachers in the next 3 years. Yemen also requested 60 engineers of different specializations—civil, electrical, and mechanical. The Yemeni side also requested 300 doctors and technicians of different specializations.

UNIFIL Says Higgins Search Yields No Results
NC261331 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Timor Goksel, UNIFIL's spokesman in southern Lebanon, has told the Voice of Lebanon that the search for Lieutenant Colonel Higgins has not yet yielded any positive results or information about the place where he is being held.

Goksel expressed the view that the measures taken by Amal are not so extensive as the movement announced, and that they are basically designed to gather more information.

Goksel noted that the UNIFIL Command in the south had received no instructions to take specific measures in the wake of Higgins' abduction.

Amal: Hizballah Has U.S. Intelligence Contacts
NC261619 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Tension has continued to plague Amal-Hizballah relations on more than one level. An Amal source today threatened to expose contacts between Hizballah and U.S. intelligence. The source added: Do not force us to clarify everything that is happening. Do not force us to announce that the sons of some shaykhs are currently in the United States cooperating with U.S. intelligence. We have evidence and photographs to prove our contention.

Meanwhile, Amal raided a number of houses in Jibshit and Al-Ghaziyah in search of U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Higgins. Tension also prevailed in Al-Duwayr al-Sharqiyyah, Zibdin, and Haruf following a clash between Amal and Hizballah which left eight people wounded from both sides.

Hizballah Demonstrates Against Shultz Tour
NC251826 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] A Hizballah demonstration was staged from the Faculty of Law building in Al-Sana'i' today. Demonstrators walked down Al-Hamra' Street [in West Beirut], passing in front of the Swiss and U.S. Embassies. They dispersed after chanting slogans condemning U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' tour of the area.

Paris Envoy Obtains Information on Imam al-Sadr
NC261611 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Ambassador Fu'ad al-Turk, foreign ministry secretary general, has received a telephone call from In'am 'Usayran, the Lebanese charge d'affaires in France, who conveyed to him some information she obtained during a meeting with Ayatollah Rohani to discuss the fate of Imam Musa al-Sadr. 'Usayran requested permission to

return to Beirut to submit a report on the information she had obtained. 'Usayran said this information, which she described as extremely important, must be conveyed directly to senior officials.

Junblatt, Others To Attend Libyan Conference
NC261343 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] PSP leader Walid Junblatt; Asim Qansuh, secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon; PSP official Marwan Hamadah; and George Hawi, Lebanese Communist Party secretary general, will leave for the Libyan capital tomorrow. They will be joined there by Ibrahim Qulaylat leader of the Al-Murabitun organization, and Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, son of the late Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. The purpose of the visit is to attend the second session of the Arab opposition parties conference and draw up a new plan of action in light of the U.S. mediation in the region.

According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, Junblatt will stop in Damascus before traveling to Libya for talks with Syrian officials. In particular, he will discuss the fate of a PSP military official who was arrested by Syrian authorities while on his way to Libya at the head of an armed group to take part in the war against Chad. Our correspondent has learned that the Syrians arrested the PSP official on the grounds that he was connected with explosions that previously took place in West Beirut.

Soldier Sought for Attack on Ivory Coast Envoy
NC251413 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The judicial authorities have continued their investigations into attacks on certain African nationals. [passage omitted]

In this connection, Munir Hunayn, the military investigating magistrate, has issued a detention warrant in absentia against soldier Andre Dib, on charges of causing an explosion at the home of the Ivory Coast ambassador. He also issued instructions to the competent security organs to identify those who participated in the attempt together with Dib.

Amal Movement Relieves 2 Officials From Posts
NC260918 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] During its meeting yesterday, the Amal Movement's Organizational Bureau decided to relieve Mustafa al-Dirani and Shaykh Khalil Haydar of their responsibilities in the movement. The former was the official in charge of the Central Security Department and the latter was the official in charge of the Central Cultural Department.

Official Criticized Measures

NC261432 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] The kidnapping of U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Higgins, which has recently led to tension and clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, has caused a problem inside the movement. This is demonstrated by the Amal Movement organizational bureau's dismissal yesterday of Mustafa al-Dirani from his position as official in charge of the Central Security Department, and of Shaykh Adib Haydar from his post as official in charge of the Central Cultural Department. The dismissals came after Al-Dirani issued a statement—which has not been made public by the media until now because of pressure from the Amal Movement—strongly criticizing the movement's measures in the south during the search for Lt Col Higgins.

The text of Mustafa al-Dirani's statement, which has been received by Radio Free Lebanon, is as follows:

In view of what is happening in the region of Lebanon in general, and the south in particular, it is necessary to underline the following:

1. The security of the south must be safeguarded through the cooperation of everyone with the Amal Movement so that a model situation can be maintained.
2. The principle of kidnapping is disapproved of generally and in the south in particular.
3. The measures taken after the kidnapping of Lt Col Higgins were not properly prepared. We denounce the harm they caused, particularly the attacks on the Iranian Embassy's center, an embassy vehicle, and some houses of the brother believers.

With regard to American or other officers operating in the name of the United Nations, I would like to clarify the following: We possess information that the Atlantic alliance is seeking to confront what it calls terrorism, which we understand as the legitimate defense of our land, through the establishment of special security bodies in Lebanon to gather information preparatory to carrying out future acts of piracy. It is using some of the UN officers and UN forces for this purpose.

Al-Dirani added: Therefore, we call on everyone to be sensible and to let religious law and judges who have the right to rule on and deal with such issues decide on these matters. There should be no hasty decisions and statements that do not serve the supreme interest. We call for the persons responsible for these decisions to be brought to account, for they have made the situation what it is now. We also strongly call for a resolution of this situation, for the mistakes which have been made to be corrected, and for the measures which have been undertaken to be examined. We warn the states concerned to

abandon their plans, particularly insofar as they pertain to the UN forces, so that some of the latter may not be exposed to detention and investigation.

Concluding, Al-Dirani's statement says: We call on everyone to take up the position of actual retaliation against all suspect American and other activity in the area, particularly the current Shultz visit.

Decision Called 'Quixotic'

NC261617 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] During its meeting yesterday, the Amal Movement's Organizational Bureau decided to relieve Mustafa al-Dirani of his post in the Central Security Department, and Shaykh Adib Haydar of his post in the Central Cultural Department.

Meanwhile, 'Ali al-Husayni, Amal Movement Political Bureau member, has described the decision as quixotic. He maintained that the decision should be reversed as it runs counter to the Political Bureau's decision.

Hizballah Denies Amal Charged With Security

NC261335 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] An official Hizballah source has denied a statement by the Amal Executive Committee chairman about an agreement charging Amal with security in the south. The source said that there has been no agreement with the Amal Movement on security in the south. What Da'ud Da'ud said in connection with this issue is totally untrue. Da'ud should check this with the brother members of the movement who signed the joint committee agreement, the source said.

Shams al-Din Urges Amal-Hizballah Cooperation

NC251652 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, has maintained that the Lebanese resistance should step up its operations against Israel to force its complete withdrawal from Lebanon. Shaykh Shams al-Din said that the principal objective of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' tour of the region is to contain and circumvent the Palestinian uprising, and he warned against holding any negotiations over the issue of this uprising.

In another development, Shaykh Shams al-Din held telephone conversations with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, top Amal officials, and Hizballah leaders, urging them to cooperate, to reach an understanding about ending their compulsive friction, and to exercise self-restraint.

Views Ties, Shultz Visit

NC261617 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, has announced that he is making on-site and round-the-clock efforts to defuse the tension between Amal and Hizballah. During his Friday sermon today, he stressed the importance of maintaining the greatest degree of security and stability in the south. He pointed out that it is not in the interest of any organization or political group to cross the limits defined by the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council's statement in this regard.

Commenting on Shultz' visit to the region, Shaykh Shams al-Din said that Shultz wants to bargain with Syria on its principled stances concerning the issues of Palestine, Lebanon, and the Gulf. He also wants to mobilize the countries of the region against Iran. He added that the United States knows that President al-Asad is not ready to listen to any talk about bargaining, and noted that 2 weeks ago Richard Murphy brought some evil ideas with him in connection with Lebanon,

particularly with regard to the Muslims. Shams al-Din said: We cannot accept anything except a unified Lebanon, and we reject all partitionist and federal formulas.

Resistance Ambushes Lahd Patrol in Al-Biq'a'

NC252016 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Our correspondent in Hsbayya has reported that a resistance group ambushed a Lahd mechanized patrol in the western Al-Biq'a' early today. Using machineguns and rockets, the resistance fighters clashed with the patrol personnel. Three militiamen were either killed or wounded, while the resistance group returned safely to base.

Snipers Fire on Suq al-Gharb, Wound Officer

NC261550 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] A Lebanese Army lieutenant and a private were wounded in sniper fire attacks on Army positions in Suq al-Gharb on the mountain before noon today. The Army returned the gunfire.

Further on Visit of Italian Foreign Minister

Received by Khaddam

JN251206 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1138 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Text] Damascus, 25 Feb (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 1130 today Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by the Italian ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with the situation in the Middle East, the uprising of the Arab citizens against the Israeli occupation in the occupied Arab territories, and international efforts to convene an international conference on the Middle East.

Concludes Official Talks

JN251352 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1230 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Text] Damascus, 25 Feb (SANA)—Official talks between the Syrian side under Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Italian side under Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti were concluded here at noon today. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, participated in the talks.

The talks centered on the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories, its impact on the international arena, world public opinion's sympathy with the Palestinian Arab people's rights, and the need to put an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, Golan, and southern Lebanon.

Andreotti expressed his country's support for the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination and freedom in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

Both sides agreed that partial and separate solutions, the continuation of Israel's occupation of the Arab territories, and the disregard of the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination will not lead to the establishment of peace in the region.

The two sides stressed the necessity for the convocation of an effective international conference under UN auspices with the participation of the five permanent UN Security Council members and all parties to the dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions.

The situation in Lebanon was also discussed. The two sides stressed Lebanon's unity and the need to forge a national accord and constitutional reforms capable of achieving equity among all Lebanese.

The two sides also reviewed the developments of the situation in the Gulf and ways to bolster relations between Syria and Italy in various fields.

Received by Al-Asad

JN260709 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and the delegation accompanying him yesterday. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Italian Ambassador to Syria Richardo Leonini attended the meeting.

Talks during the meeting dealt with a general review of developments in the area in all its aspects. The two sides also discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict in light of the popular uprising against the Israeli occupation in the occupied Arab territories and the negative results of the Camp David accords. The discussion also dealt with the situation in the Gulf and the Iraq-Iran war.

Information Minister on U.S. Mideast Position

JN260639 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0515 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Damascus—In a statement to AFP, Information Minister Muhammad Salman has stated that we do not want the United States to make false assessments once again. A separate and partial solution will never lead to peace.

The information minister added: What we also want is that the United States not try to convince us or others that, due to internal Israeli differences and the Zionist lobby's pressures, it cannot pressure Israel into accepting the idea of an international conference.

Salman said this international conference must enjoy full prerogatives to attain a comprehensive and just solution that will secure the withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's rights.

AL-BA'TH Deplores Iraqi Media Campaign

PM261039 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic
11 Feb 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial by Chief Editor Dr Turki Saqr: "Calm Reading of a Malicious Campaign!"]

[Excerpts] Whenever the Iraqi regime resumes its malicious and rabid campaigns against Syria, more and more facts emerge about this regime, its components, and its suspect links with schemes hostile to the Arab nation's interests and pan-Arab causes.

Arab citizens, disgusted with the Iraqi regime's demagoguery, unacceptable methods, and broken records, are surprised by the timing of the Iraqi officials' campaigns against Syria at a moment when the Arab world is experiencing the beginning of a pan-Arab popular mass uprising in support of our kinfolk in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Is this timing in itself not a clear indication of the Iraqi regime's involvement in a scheme aimed at eclipsing the Arab nation's central cause and an attempt to denigrate the cause to continue giving top priority to marginal battles?

Or has the Iraqi regime been suddenly awakened by the voice of the uprising in occupied Palestine only to discover that its fabricated pan-Arab slogans about its war against Iran have completely collapsed, that such slogans have become bankrupt, that the credibility of Syrian Arab steadfastness toward the central cause is beyond all doubt, and that this cause has remained the prime one, as all attempts aimed at diverting attention from it have failed?

In any case, the uprising is having its say today and firmly judging those who have tried to replace the main conflict with side issues and followed another direction aimed at exhausting and eliminating the pan-Arab cause. [passage omitted]

In these conditions which are appropriate for the Palestinian cause, while the Arab nation's eyes are focused on the occupied territories and our brave brothers' struggle against occupation, at a time when all world forces are marveling at the achievements of this huge uprising, what has the Iraqi regime been doing?

It has been doing exactly the opposite: It has been deviating from Arab mass unanimity and unleashing spiteful campaigns aimed at sabotaging Arab relations, fabricating new disputes, and preoccupying the Arabs with unfounded slanders and lies that disregard the pan-Arab responsibility toward the crucial battle of the Arab nation.

It is not strange that the Iraqi regime is deviating from pan-Arabism: Its war against Iran has always been, from the beginning, an action against the interests of the Arab nation. Implicating Arab states in this war totally violates pan-Arab interests, threatens the security of Arab Gulf states, and hampers the freedom of their shipping in the Gulf. This is not in line with the interests of the Arab states in the Gulf or those of the Arab nation in general.

When the Iraqi regime mobilizes its media resources to attack endeavors aimed at establishing normal and natural relations between the Arab Gulf states and Iran, extinguishing the fire of tension, and eliminating the danger of the war expanding in the Gulf, it does so because such efforts are not in line with its deviationist position on both national and pan-Arab levels, a position that the regime has been maintaining since orders to do so were first issued to it.

We know very well why all this poison is spewing from the Iraqi regime's mouthpieces: The regime wants the war to be portrayed as a war launched [by Iran] against both itself and the Arab nation as a whole in the belief that this method might rescue it. That is why the regime is trying to extricate itself from the dilemma by involving others in the war and by implicating Arab Gulf states in a conflict that has become an enormous hell and an endless dark tunnel over the years.

Anyone who reads the statements made by Iraqi officials and articles published by the regime must form the impression that the Iraqi rulers want to worsen the situation in the Gulf, fabricate a comprehensive conflict against Iran, and implicate Arab Gulf states in the war—a step that has been rejected by fraternal states in the Gulf, as has been stated by a number of officials in these states.

When signs emerge in the Gulf that the door to dialogue with Iran is not closed and that the prospects for positive ideas have not been exhausted, why does the Iraqi regime get furious at these efforts characterized by nobility, wisdom, and courage, as well as actions dealing with facts? And what logic is there in the Iraqi regime's claims that it is seeking to end the war when its prime concern is to implicate others in it?

And in whose interest are war and destruction expanding to areas that are against this kind of blind internecine fighting and do not wish to exhaust their resources in a bitter and ferocious as well as aimless, meaningless, and endless conflict?

And has it anything to do with pan-Arab boldness and zeal that Arab Gulf states should be forced to throw their citizens and resources into an all-consuming furnace and then live in an endless dilemma?

If the Iraqi regime really sought to end the dilemma and remove this nightmare from both the Iraqi and Iranian peoples, it would have welcomed any initiative aimed at containing and limiting the fire of the dilemma.

Moreover, it would be able to see clearly that containing the war would extinguish the fire. However, the regime continues to worsen the situation in the Gulf and implicate Arab Gulf states in the war—a matter that cannot be accepted or adopted at the Arab level, as it is not in line with the Arab commitment to the crucial Arab battle, regardless of the Iraqi regime's attempts to turn to deception, blackmail, and trading in pan-Arab slogans.

Syria has always been clear in its position on the war and the Gulf crisis. It has presented its position on every occasion clearly and frankly, whether before, during, or after the Amman summit.

Syria has always been in harmony with itself; it adheres to a pan-Arab policy and will never deviate from it because it is a policy that serves Syria's interests, as well as the interests of the Arab nation. It would have been appropriate for the Iraqi regime to distribute its spite, give our people in Iraq the opportunity to support our kinfolk's revolution in the occupied territories, and provide effective support.

Instead it has made frantic efforts to expand the war and implicate the Gulf brothers to divert attention from the real battle in Palestine and distort the heroic uprising which has blocked the road to isolated deals and suspect solutions. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Danger of 'Bloodbath' Seen After Withdrawal *AU260836 Paris AFP in English 2233 GMT 25 Feb 88*

[Excerpt] Moscow, Feb 25 (AFP)—A bloodbath in Afghanistan is a real danger after the withdrawal of Soviet troops, a senior Soviet official said here Thursday.

The official, who spoke on condition that he was not identified and not quoted directly, said that a suggested 50-man U.N. observer team would not be able to prevent bloodshed, and Moscow would support the despatch of a U.N. peacekeeping force.

Last December, the leader of the Soviet-backed Communist leadership in Afghanistan, Major-General Najibullah, told Western reporters in Kabul that he was opposed to a U.N. force. But the official suggested Kabul's position had changed since a visit there last month by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The official made his comments as diplomatic consultations on Afghanistan were stepped up involving India and Pakistan and after Afghan rebels announced the formation of a resistance government. U.N.-sponsored Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan resume next week.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has pledged to withdraw the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan beginning over a 10-month period from May 15 if an agreement is signed in Geneva by mid-March.

The official accepted that Moscow had been slow to recognise it had misread the situation in Afghanistan when Soviet forces were sent into the country in December 1979, and to see changes subsequently.

He said Mr. Najibullah's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, initially hailed by Soviet authorities as a genuine proletarian grouping, was in fact largely made up of city-based intellectuals in a country with an overwhelmingly rural population.

Moscow was encouraged by strong signs that commanders of the Muslim rebels operating inside Afghanistan were more ready for negotiations than the seven-party alliance of Afghan exile groups based in Pakistan who appeared to want a fight to the death, the official said. [passage omitted]

Mujahidin Threaten To Move Headquarters to Iran *LD251859 Kuwait KUNA in English 1904 GMT 24 Feb 88*

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 24 (KUNA)—A senior Afghan mujahidin leader today gave the threat of shifting mujahidin headquarters from Peshawar to Tehran if Pakistan Government signed next month the proposed Geneva accord on Afghanistan in its present shape.

Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, an influential personality in the 7-party Afghan mujahidin alliance, told a press briefing for diplomats and correspondents here this evening that Pakistan was under great pressure to sign the Afghan settlement accord when the United Nation-sponsored proximity talks were resumed in Geneva in March.

A correspondent reminded him that two mujahidin organisations, one of them headed by Hikmatyar himself, had long ago closed down their offices in Tehran because of differences with the Iranian Government.

Replying to the correspondent, Hikmatyar, who is the chief of powerful Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic party of Afghanistan] Afghan resistance group in the alliance, said the offices were not closed down because of any differences with Iranian Government but because of logistic convenience. He pointed to the latest statement by Iranian Government that it was on the side of mujahidin vis-a-vis the proposed Geneva accord.

In his 75-minute joint briefing for Islamabad-based diplomats and press correspondents, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar gave a background to the mujahidin struggle against communist expansion in Afghanistan and the mujahidin stand on the current efforts to bring about a settlement in the landlocked country besides answering questions by the correspondents.

According to Hikmatyar, the major defect in the proposed Geneva accord was that it gave legitimacy to the regime in Kabul of Doctor Najibullah.

He said the communist regime of Najib had no locus [as received] stand and should not be made a party in signing of the accord. In the 8-year occupation the communists had martyred 1.3 million Afghan people, he said.

The bearded mujahidin leader told a questioner that ex-king Zahir Shah was not also acceptable to the mujahidin as leader of an interim government in Kabul. It appeared that the two superpowers had agreed to install "debaucherous Zahir Shah" as head of a broad-based coalition government in Kabul.

Only that interim government would be acceptable in Kabul which was acceptable to the mujahidin, Hikmatyar stressed.

In his words, Hikmatyar said Soviet Union and United States had entered into a secret deal to have an interim government suited to them and headed by Zahir Shah.

A government led by the multi-party Afghan mujahidin alliance did not suit the Americans and Russians alike, the reason being that it would be a truly Islamic Government. Both the United States and the Soviet Union were afraid of an Islamic government in Kabul, he said, adding that they wanted a secular government because they were afraid of a genuine Islamic government. In this context Zahir Shah suited both the superpowers as he was secular-minded, he added.

Asked if United Nations mediator on Afghanistan Diego Cordovez invited different elements of the Afghan people in Geneva to discuss formation of an interim government in Kabul would the mujahidin respond, Hikmatyar said "first we will see the agenda and then the composition of the Afghan elements and if Najib's party is also the invitee we will reject the Cordovez invitation".

"How can we accept communists as our partners," Hikmatyar remarked.

Hikmatyar, who is considered to be the most militant Afghan mujahidin leader, emphatically said that only an Islamic government in Kabul could provide an effective shield against expansion of communism.

The mujahidin leader hoped that Pakistan would not knuckle under pressure and sign the Geneva accord with Najib regime. If it was done "we would consider it treason against jihad in Afghanistan".

Earlier in the afternoon, a Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman at a press briefing said the Ministry was studying the document which, the 7-party alliance sent to it yesterday from Peshawar.

However, he added, the demand of the alliance for an interim government in Kabul was a positive step and a forward movement towards the solution of the Afghan-istan problem.

Interim Government Leader Ahmad Shah Profiled
BK251258 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 25 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance alliance has unanimously chosen Ahmed Shah to lead a mujahidin transitional government, informed resistance sources said Thursday.

Mr. Shah, 43, an engineer, is deputy chief of the Ettehad-e Eslami group of rebels headed by 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf and one of the most highly-educated resistance leaders.

A spokesman for the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance neither confirmed nor denied the report.

The spokesman said Mr. Shah's name had been proposed and discussed but a decision would be made when the resistance alliance announces the names of all the 28 ministers in its transitional government.

The mujahidin alliance announced Tuesday the formation of a transitional government composed entirely of members linked to resistance groups and which would be empowered to sign an eventual peace accord on Afghanistan in Geneva.

Born in a suburb of Kabul, Mr. Shah obtained an engineering degree from Kabul University. He later studied in the United States and served as a professor in Saudi Arabia before joining the Afghan resistance.

He is fluent in Pashto, Farsi, Arabic, English and French and is married to an American woman, according to a newspaper report.

The pro-Soviet Kabul government, meanwhile, rejected the Afghan resistance transitional government, saying it was "unacceptable and non-negotiable."

Afghan Embassy Charge d'Affaires here Quadratullah Ahmadi told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the communique released Tuesday outlining the transitional government was "unacceptable for the Afghans."

Sources close to the Afghan Embassy said that the Afghan resistance alliance was "following the Islamic and Iranian path" and that hardline rebels appeared to be dominating the movement.

"The mujahidin do not want to resolve the problem. We can't work with this document. It's not negotiable," Mr. Ahmadi said.

"It completely ignores the Kabul government and people living in Afghanistan.

"It does not even mention the (ruling) Afghan People's Party which has 180,000 members," he said.

"According to the communique, there are only seven people living in Afghanistan" to represent the population, he said.

"This is not a democratic government," he said, adding that nowhere did the word "democracy" appear.

The mujahidin alliance said Tuesday that the transitional government would be made up of 14 mujahidin, seven Afghan refugees and seven Muslims currently living in Kabul.

A Soviet spokesman accused the Afghan resistance Wednesday of trying to torpedo the U.N.-mediated Geneva talks, which are to resume on March 2.

U.S. Accused of 'Damaging' Mujahidin Cause
*BK251514 Hong Kong AFP in English 1454 GMT
25 Feb 88*

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Feb 25 (AFP)—Afghan resistance leader Muhammad Yunis Khalis accused the United States Thursday of damaging the mujahidin cause and only caring about a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Mr. Khalis, speaking after a two-hour meeting with U.S. Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs Michael Armacost, said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that U.S. policy on Afghanistan was "harming the movement."

The Afghan resistance leader said that Washington considers the presence of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan as the sole issue and that a withdrawal of Soviet forces would solve the Afghan problem.

"But the problem will not be over so long as a communist regime remains in Kabul," Mr. Khalis stressed, criticizing the U.S. endorsement of U.N.-mediated peace talks in Geneva between Islamabad and Kabul.

"By endorsing the Geneva process the United States is handing over Afghanistan to the Soviet Union," he said.

"If an agreement is signed in Geneva the oppressive regime in Kabul which the Soviets have been supporting will stay and the mujahidin who have been fighting for their freedom will be out."

"You have lost the struggle internationally. But we will not accept defeat and we will continue to fight and will win," Mr. Khalis said he told Mr. Armacost. "I have told him that the current U.S. policy was damaging."

Mr. Armacost left Pakistan for India Thursday after holding talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Lahore and apparently failing to reach an agreement on the crucial issue of replacing the Kabul government before a Soviet pullout from Afghanistan.

Mr. Armacost's talks with Mr. Ziaul Haq and Premier Mohammad Khan Junejo focused on the settlement of outstanding issues in the U.N.-drafted agreement pending in Geneva. He also briefed Pakistani and mujahidin leaders on talks Secretary of State George Shultz held with Soviet leaders in Moscow this week.

Mr. Khalis's remarks came one day after another influential Afghan resistance chief, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, charged that Moscow and Washington had struck a secret deal on the Afghan issue.

Mr. Khalis is the head of a seven-party Afghan resistance alliance which announced Tuesday the formation of a transitional government composed entirely of members linked to resistance groups and which would be empowered to sign an eventual peace accord on Afghanistan in Geneva. [passage omitted]

Mr. Khalis responded Thursday to charges that the mujahidin were trying to set up an Islamic government in Kabul along the lines of the Iranian regime.

"It is wrong to find similarity" between the proposed mujahidin government and the current regime in Teheran, he said.

"Our Islamic government will be sufficiently different from the government in Iran."

"There will be democracy, but not the Western-style democracy."

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said Moscow will begin to withdraw its forces on May 15 if an agreement is signed in Geneva by mid-March.

The United States supports the United Nations peace process and has called on all parties to facilitate a Soviet pullout.

A new round of talks on Afghanistan is to start in Geneva Wednesday [2 March] with U.N. special envoy Diego Cordovez mediating between Kabul and Islamabad.

The Afghan resistance are not a party to the talks.

Foreign Ministry on Noninterference in Coalition
*LD251857 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 25 Feb 88*

[Text] The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan has made the following statement:

There are few days left before the Geneva talks on the political settlement to the situation surrounding Afghanistan begin. There has been much preparatory work to harmonize the stands of both sides in the talks. Diego Cordovez, special envoy of the UN secretary general, has played an important role in this regard. The preparation and arrangement of the documents, which cover all aspects of the settlement, have virtually ended.

The Afghan people, who are weary of the years-long fratricidal war, impatiently and hopefully expect a successful conclusion to the Geneva talks. The settlement will improve not only the situation in the region, but also the international atmosphere. It is also an experience for the solutions to other regional conflicts.

However, certain circles of some countries who act on the basis of an old type of (?fantasy) thinking still show their reluctance to seek peaceful solutions to complex international issues. They place their motivated interests above the interests of other countries' peace, security, and people.

The Pakistani leadership's efforts at this stage, before the talks begin, are much like that. They are attempting to create artificial obstacles and to prevent the attainment of final agreements in Geneva. They specifically link the attainment of the Geneva agreements with the formation of a transitional government in Afghanistan.

The feverish activities by the opposition extremist leaders in Peshawar to organize a so-called complex structure for a transitional government in Afghanistan serve this (?strange) and unworthy aim. It is obvious to all that only one legal government exists in Afghanistan. It has been officially recognized by more than 80 countries in the world. It holds memberships in the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and many international organizations.

The national reconciliation policy and the efforts by our country's leadership to achieve nationwide peace have been supported by all Afghans. So we may ask: Whom will this so-called transitional government to be formed on Pakistani territory represent?

Millions of Afghans, people of the neighboring countries, and peace-loving mankind are awaiting the success of the Geneva talks. Those matters connected with the national reconciliation policy and the formation of a coalition government, as the Afghan leadership has often declared, are an internal affair of the Afghan people.

Only we Afghans, not foreign forces, have the right to determine our destiny, including the structure of a state that is acceptable to all. The Afghan side will make every effort to normalize the situation surrounding Afghanistan in accordance with the 8 February statement by Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Leaders Congratulate CSSR on 40th Anniversary
LD252211 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the success of the CSSR toilers in victorious February, Esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Republic of Afghanistan, and Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, sent a congratulatory telegram to Prague addressed to Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ, CSSR President Gustav Husak, and CSSR Premier Lubomir Strougal.

The message says that following the incidents of February 1948 which were fanned by reactionary forces, the people of Czechoslovakia paved the way for the construction of socialism in their country. The message also expresses confidence that the friendly relations and fraternal cooperation between the parties, governments, and peoples of the two countries will further develop in the interests of both peoples and of consolidating world peace and stability.

According to another report, 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of Afghanistan also sent a congratulatory telegram to Prague on this occasion addressed to Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR minister of foreign affairs.

Civil Aviation Protocol Signed With USSR
LD260449 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] A cooperation protocol was signed today in Kabul between the Ministries of Civil Aviation of the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR. According to this protocol, the USSR Civil Aviation Ministry will assist the Afghan Civil Aviation Ministry in training aviation personnel, providing technical services for aircraft, and equipping the country's airfields with aviation equipment and instruments.

The protocol was signed and its documents were exchanged for Afghanistan by Muhammad 'Aziz Negahban, minister of civil aviation, and for the Soviet Union by the deputy-minister of the Civil Aviation Ministry who has been in Kabul at the head of a delegation.

Najibullah, Kabul Party Activists Discuss Tasks
LD252149 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] This afternoon at Central Committee headquarters, Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, received Kabul city party and social organization activists.

At this meeting Esteemed Najibullah specified the immediate and urgent duties of the Kabul city party and social organization activists in order to realize the national reconciliation policy. He explained their responsibilities in mobilizing the social forces to implement the objectives of the national reconciliation policy.

Bangladesh

Soviet Special Envoy, Ershad Discuss Afghanistan
BK251704 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Ambassador V.I. Papov, the visiting special envoy of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, met President Ershad in Dhaka today. He also delivered a message from the Soviet leader to President Ershad on recent Soviet initiative on Afghanistan.

During the meeting, Ambassador Papov said the Soviet Union values the important role Bangladesh has been playing in world affairs. He said his mission is to explain in detail the Soviet position and initiative on Afghanistan for better understanding by Bangladesh.

President Ershad expressed the hope that the recent Soviet initiative could be a positive development and that an early withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan could ensure the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland. He also assured the Soviet special envoy of Bangladesh's interest in further intensifying the already existing bonds of friendship between the two countries. Soviet Ambassador in Dhaka Mr V.G. Belyayev, was also present.

India

Gandhi Invites Ziaul Haq for Afghan Talks
BK251442 Hong Kong AFP in English 1427 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 25 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Thursday invited Pakistan President Ziaul Haq to India for talks on efforts to settle the Afghan conflict, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Mr. Gandhi spoke to General Ziaul Haq by telephone Thursday in connection with current diplomatic peace efforts for a Soviet troop pullout from Afghanistan, the news agency said quoting unnamed sources.

Official spokesmen were not immediately available for comment on the report, which gave no more details.

Mr. Gandhi's reported invitation to Gen. Ziaul Haq comes less than a week before the crucial Geneva "proximity talks" between Pakistan and Afghanistan, beginning on Wednesday [2 March].

Delhi Confirms Invitation
BK251554 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has invited the Pakistan president, Mr Ziaul Haq, to visit India. Agency reports in New Delhi say that Mr Rajiv Gandhi has invited the Pakistan president primarily for an exchange of views on developments relating to Afghanistan. The agencies further add that Mr Gandhi spoke to General Ziaul Haq over telephone today.

Police Kill 6 Gurkha Activists 25 Feb
BK251519 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] In West Bengal, six GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists were killed in an encounter with the police in the Kalimpong subdivision of Darjeeling District this afternoon. The district magistrate told our Kurseong

correspondent that a police party was sent to Rauz Bazaar near Kalimpong town to conduct a raid in order to rescue two women abducted by the GNLF activists.

When the police party was coming back after the raid, it was attacked by GNLF men at three places in which a few CRPF jawans [Central Reserve Police Force soldiers] were injured. Security men opened fire in self-defense in which six GNLF activists were killed and one injured. Five persons have been arrested in connection with the incident.

As already reported, two CRPF jawans died of bullet injuries following an attack by GNLF activists in Kalimpong last night. The incident occurred when GNLF activists ambushed the vehicle of the deputy commandant of the CRPF.

Economic Survey Presented to Parliament
BK261008 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] The prebudget economic survey says that the country will have a positive growth rate of 1 to 2 percent in the gross national product [GNP] despite a decline in foodgrains production because of the severe drought. Food production is likely to be 7 to 10 percent less this time.

A bright outlook for the GNP is largely due to better industrial performance, which has shown a 10.2 percent growth as against last year's 8.5 to 9 percent.

The survey for 1987-88 presented to Parliament today notes that there has been a rapid increase in government expenditure. This poses a serious risk of inflation and can affect the country's overall economic performance.

The survey says despite the drought regular flow of foodgrains has been maintained through the public distribution system. This has been possible largely by the big buffer stock. But the survey emphasizes that agriculture will have to be rid of its continued dependence on weather. This can be done with the rapid expansion of the area under assured irrigation, closing the gap between irrigation potential and its utilization, and better cropping patterns.

On the price front, the survey points out that up to the 3d week of last month the wholesale price index registered an increase of 9.8 percent. The consumer price index also went up by 9.6 percent up to December last. The price increases have been particularly high for items like edible oil and oil seeds, spices, pulses, gur [molasses sugar], khandsari [raw sugar], cereals, and cotton.

The survey observes that though the price situation remained difficult, the rate of inflation has been lower this year than in other years of severe drought. There has been a further decline in trade deficit in the first 9 months of the current year with exports growing by 24.6

percent in comparison to the same period last year. In contrast, imports grew by 2.2 percent in 1986-87 and 13.5 percent during April-December last year.

In the industrial sector, the survey calls for increasing productivity in coal sector, better power management, and improvement in the operational efficiency of the railways. It also suggests curbs on the growth of current expenditure, broadening the base of revenue, and further improvement in the financial performance of public sector enterprises.

The survey calls for ruthless pruning of programs of doubtful economic and social merit, moderation in the growth of wages and salaries, and reduction in the growing bill of subsidies through better efficiency and priority in favor of completing on-going programs in time.

In conclusion, the survey calls for decisive action to check the rapid growth of urban population in the country.

Briefs

Heroin Seizure in Bombay

In Bombay, revenue intelligence officers have recovered heroin worth more than 1 crore rupees from a taxi passenger. Another 14 packages with identical markings containing yellow powder have also been seized. The AIR Bombay correspondent reports that the total seizure of narcotic substances in the months of January and February this year comes to over 6 crore rupees. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Feb 88 BK]

Iran

Besharati Delivers Pre-Sermon Speech in Tehran LD261300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati was the pre-sermon speaker at the Friday prayers sermons in Tehran today. He referred to the disgraceful defeat of the U.S. military presence and its allies in the Persian Gulf. He said: As of 2 days ago, more than 10 U.S. naval vessels and destroyers left the Persian Gulf. Following this military-political victory by Iran, the United States is endeavoring to somehow compensate for its great defeat by proposing an arms embargo against Iran. However, our nation will survive this attempt and our fighters will upset the calculations of global arrogance through their decisive victories.

The deputy foreign minister then referred to the question of Afghanistan and said: We have a 760-km border with Afghanistan and we cannot be indifferent to the problems of that country. We have repeatedly declared our position on the Afghanistan issue and believe that Soviet

forces should withdraw unconditionally from Afghanistan. A Marxist government holds no relevance for that country. A government desired by the Muslim nation of Afghanistan should be formed in that country.

Mr Besharati then referred to the hajj issue, the Hijaz regime, and that regime's conspiracy to prevent the staging of the hajj ceremonies by Iranian pilgrims. He said: Just as they do not ask permission from anyone when defending their territorial integrity, their honor, and their dignity, the people of Iran will not ask anyone's permission to stage their hajj ceremonies.

Musavi Addresses Gathering of Prayer Leaders LD251842 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—Today Iran's Muslim combatants are the paramount force in the Persian Gulf and the U.S. is disgracefully retreating from the waterway because it sorely miscalculated the Iranian people's determination, said Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Thursday.

Premier Musavi addressing a gathering of Friday prayer leaders and ulema from Tehran Province, said Iranian people have bravely weathered the imposed hardships. Today's hardships will be a firm foundation for tomorrow's grand victories, he added.

The frowning face of world arrogance, its sanctions and plots hatched against the Islamic revolution have only helped to bloom [as received] the Iranian Muslim's innate talents and creativities, noted the premier.

On political developments in neighbouring Afghanistan and the Soviet Union's decision to withdraw from that country, Musavi said Afghan mujahidin's valiant resistance has guaranteed a determining role for their homeland's future.

Also attending the meeting was minister of oil Gholam Reza Aqazadeh who informed the gathering of his ministry's plan to expand the gas line network around the country.

He said that before the victory of the Islamic revolution (1979) only six cities had gas pipelines, whereas he added, the gas network has now been considerably expanded and includes 54 cities and towns around the country. The job is more commendable in view of the difficulties caused by the Iraqi-imposed war and other related issues, he noted.

The figure will reach 105 by the end of the current year (ending March 20) and 140 at the end of next Iranian year, predicted the oil minister.

Aqazadeh said it is really unique and has no precedence anywhere around the world that a nation (Iran) continues to make progress in economic, industrial, military and other areas, despite so many plots and an imposed war.

The Islamic Republic of Iran will be among those countries which determine the world's oil policies in future, he specified.

On Iran's industrial progress, the minister said "We will tell Iranian people and the world about the successes after the end of the imposed war."

'Nationalist' Demonstrations in Yerevan Noted
NC251445 Tehran Television Service in English
1330 GMT 25 Feb 88

[From Network 2]

[Text] Nationalist demonstrations were held in Yerevan, the capital of the Soviet Republic of Armenia, yesterday with the participation of over 200,000 people who once again called for an urgent session of the republic's parliament to discuss the annexation of the region inside the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Armenian Republic. Wednesday was the second consecutive day on which nationalist rallies were held in Yerevan. The Soviet Union's Communist Party's Central Committee has rejected the demand of the Armenian Republic to return their Karabakhskaya region to its territory.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov, commenting on the demonstrations in Yerevan, admitted that the dispute over the region has turned into widespread street rallies, but he added that the demonstrations have so far been peaceful.

Afghan Rebels Oppose 'East-West' Deals
LD252250 Tehran in English to Europe
1930 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] In line with a compromise for solving the issue of Afghanistan and also following the release of reports concerning the plan for the establishment of a provisional government in Afghanistan based on international agreements, Afghan Muslim mujahidin expressed concern over such agreements and announced their opposition to any kind of compromise based on East-West agreements.

Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur and Mawlawi al-Mu'azin as well as Qazi Amin Waqad, leaders of Afghan Muslim revolutionaries in an interview with the dispatched reporter of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI daily to Peshawar in Pakistan condemned recent compromises and statements of some Afghan leaders based on acceptance of the plans of the East and the West. Muslim mujahidin added: Islamic rule, which is the Muslim nation of Afghanistan's ideal, will only be established through

continuation of jihad and negligence of these compromises and no one has the right to hold talks and reach political agreements on behalf of the Afghan Muslim nation.

IAEA Team To Inspect Bombed Nuclear Plant
AU261208 Paris AFP in English 1133 GMT
26 Feb 88

[Text] Vienna, Feb 26 (AFP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is to send a delegation "in the next few months" to assess damage at the Bushehr nuclear plant in Iran which the Iranians say was bombed by Iraq in November, the IAEA director-general said Friday.

Hans Blix, of Sweden, made the announcement after a meeting of the IAEA's 35 member governing council at the organisation's Vienna headquarters.

The decision follows the visit to Teheran of an Austrian delegation which brought back information on Bushehr which the IAEA had requested, IAEA sources said Friday.

Iran called on the IAEA to inspect the Bushehr plant shortly after the Iraqi air raid but the IAEA said it needed more information before complying with the request.

Correction to Prime Minister Chairs Meeting

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Prime Minister Chairs Research Council Meeting," published in the 25 February Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 51:

Second paragraph, first sentence: ...construction of the first surface radar [radar-e sathi] at Sharif Industrial University... (changing word "missile" to "radar")

Turkish Official Confers With Abedi-Ja'fari
LD251809 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT
25 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—Visiting Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs Yusuf Ozal and Iranian Minister of Commerce Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari stressed on expansion of Tehran-Ankara economic, trade and industrial relations in their meeting here Thursday.

The Iranian minister said there are no obstacles for promotion of Iran-Turkey ties. Accordingly basic measures should be taken for boosting long-term cultural, political and economic cooperation, he added.

In response, Yusuf Ozal said Turkey attaches special importance to its ties with the Islamic Republic compared to its other neighbours. The two countries, he added, have close bilateral cooperation in the 3 member

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and expressed hope ECO's High Council would be upgraded from the ministerial to the prime ministerial level.

Tehran-Ankara ties have undergone positive changes since the victory of the Islamic Revolution (in 1979), he said noting, the two neighbours' mutual trade exchanges exceeded dlr. two billions during 1984 and '85.

The Turkish minister also expressed hope that the two countries would promote bilateral sea, land and air transportation as well as banking and other areas of economic cooperation to desirable levels.

Yusuf Ozal arrived here yesterday at the head of a delegation to prepare preliminaries for Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's visit to Tehran next week.

Deputy Foreign Minister Larijani Visits Brazil

For reportage on the visit to Brazil by Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani, including his meeting with Brazilian President Jose Sarney, see the Brazil subsection of the South America section of the 25 February Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Majlis Delegation Meets With Yugoslav Officials

For Yugoslav coverage of the visit by a delegation from the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Majlis, led by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Marvi-Samarvarchi, to Yugoslavia, including their visit with Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar, see the Yugoslavia section of the 25 February East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

U.S. 'Conspiracy' on Arms Embargo To Fail *LD251811 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian* *1109 GMT 25 Feb 88*

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. According to foreign news agencies THE WASHINGTON POST has recently published part of a report compiled by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the present plight of the Iraqi regime and the need for an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The report, compiled at a time when the Thatcher and Reagan governments are intensifying their efforts in the UN Security Council, warns that the future collapse of the Iraqi regime in the face of crushing attacks of Islam's forces is a realistic possibility.

The report explicitly states that such an event would have disastrous consequences for the West's interests in the Persian Gulf region. In addition, members of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, while expressing doubts about the Iraqi regime's military capability to withstand the assaults of Islam's forces, have

asked the Reagan administration to employ all means to impose a mandatory arms embargo and economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The reason for this committee's insistence that the Reagan administration concentrate its conspiratorial activities in the United Nations as a combined effort is that members of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee have come to the conclusion that any unilateral military action by Washington will be fruitless and will have harmful short- and long-term consequences. As a result, they believe that the United Nations and regional organizations are the best means of implementing Washington's policies.

In a report on the results of the plan to reflag Kuwaiti ships, this committee has however explicitly admitted that the Iraqi regime is the aggressor. In addition, Britain, France, and West Germany have in various ways formally and openly admitted that the Iraqi regime is the aggressor. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that despite so much evidence and undeniable facts and their admission and confession, many members of the UN Security Council, particularly Britain which moves within the framework of Reagan's aggressive policies, have opposed the justified request of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the identification of the aggressor as the first step, and they have concentrated on applying pressure on the Muslim nation of Iran.

Therefore, it is quite clear that, contrary to the extensive propaganda of global imperialism, the aim of the Reagan administration's current efforts to implement an arms embargo is in fact a preemptive conspiracy to prevent the realization of the demands of a risen ummah, the outcome of whose success will certainly and according to the admissions of many Western politicians, lead to some fundamental and significant developments.

Therefore, the arms embargo conspiracy is an attempt based on support for the aggressor to consolidate the unfair interests of the West. However, this conspiracy, like other similar measures, will fail and only increase the determination of the Iranian nation, and further disgrace and defeat those who hatch and endorse it. For the nation of Iran is determined to wage its justified battle until victory is achieved and the aggressor is punished. The nation intends to show the world once again that the will of nations is too strong to be defeated by resorting to such conspiracies.

Navy To Conduct Maneuvers in Indian Ocean *LD260925 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT* *26 Feb 88*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran will stage grand naval maneuvers in the mouth of the Indian Ocean early next Iranian year (starting March 21, 1988), according to Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan.

The commander announced this at the conclusion of a six-day gathering of naval commanders here Thursday. He added that all naval units including air force, hovercrafts, marines and commandos will participate in the wide-scale maneuvers in the international waters.

The goal of the maneuvers, he said, was to prepare for possible foreign aggressions and test Iran's naval strength.

Admiral Malekzadegan also said Navy experts have made outstanding progress in repairing and operating missile systems. He further said that the Iranian Navy has manufactured advanced weapons. He did not elaborate but said they would be used in future operations.

IRGC Air Force Begins Missile Training
LD251412 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] The IRGC General Staff has announced that the IRGC Air Force began the first training course on surface-to-surface missiles during a special ceremony attended by a group of IRGC Air Force officials at the IRGC Air Force's Fajr base.

During the ceremony Mr Shamkani, commander of the Ground Forces and deputy commander in chief of the IRGC, praised the progress and victories achieved by the fighters of Islam and inspected various sections of the base.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Air Force Downs Iraqi Plane
LD261048 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announces that at 1855 yesterday, a fighter-bomber of the Islamic Republic's Air Force hit an aircraft of the aggressor Iraqi regime over the waters of the Persian Gulf with their missiles, and blew it up in midair. This report said that the debris of the enemy's aircraft went down in the waters of the Persian Gulf. The pilot of this aircraft was killed in the air.

Communique No 3,124
LD261729 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT
26 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters shot down an Iraqi warplane over the Persian Gulf waters at 18:55 hours local time (15:25 GMT) Thursday by firing an air-to-air missile to it.

The Joint-Staff of the Armed Forces in its Communique No. 3124 said that Iran's roving boats intercepted and inspected 12 oil and gas tankers and cargo ships but allowed them to go on their voyage as they were not carrying suspicious goods.

On Wednesday, the Navy artillery fire forced two enemy vessels around Khawr 'Abdallah to flee inflicting damages on them, the communique said.

Muslim combatants checked the enemy activities and its artillery fire in Northwestern operational regions.

Artillery fire of Muslim combatants inflicted damage on enemy tanks in west of Jofeyr and a bridge overlooking Eynkhosh, the communique concluded.

Nepal

'Outlawed' Party Members Reportedly Arrested
BK260824 Hong Kong AFP in English 0806 GMT
26 Feb 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 26 (AFP)—More than a dozen members of the outlawed Nepali Congress Party have been arrested in an apparent bid to foil a general strike planned for next week, Party sources said Friday.

Those arrested Thursday included the suspended mayor and deputy mayor of Kathmandu, the sources said.

The Kathmandu District Committee of the banned Nepali Congress had called for a general strike Monday in Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur to protest the suspension of the two officials in December.

Kathmandu Mayor Haribol Bhattarai and Deputy Mayor Tirtha Ram Dogol were suspended for boycotting a December 16 celebration marking the December 1960 introduction of a ban on political parties.

Others arrested Thursday included the president of the Kathmandu District Committee of the Nepali Congress, Marshal Julum Shakya, and Professor Surya Bahadur Shakya, Party sources said.

No official confirmation of the number of arrested persons or their identities has been given.

A spokesman for the outlawed Nepali Congress said the Party had called for vehicles to stay off the roads and businesses to close Monday.

He expressed confidence that the public would respond favourably and help the Party paralyze all business and traffic in the capital.

The Marxist-Leninist units of the banned Nepal Communist Party have said they will support the strike, leftist sources said.

This is first time in nearly three years the Party has called for a general strike after mounting a civic disobedience campaign in 1985 demanding restoration of the multi-party system of government.

The campaign was called off after a week, following a series of bombings in the capital that killed at least eight people, including a parliamentarian, and injured 28 people.

Nepal's political system, which allows elections while banning political party activity, was introduced in 1960 by former King Mahendra after he dissolved the country's first elected Parliament.

A national referendum in 1980 narrowly endorsed continuation of the ban on political parties.

Pakistan

Islamabad Reports 25 Feb Indian Missile Launch
BK251548 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] India has successfully tested the 250 km range surface-to-surface missile at its Sriharikota space station in Andhra Pradesh today. This was announced by the Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, in the Lok Sabha this afternoon. He said the missile was fired into the sea. The missile can carry various types of heavy weapons to its target and cause heavy damage to enemy targets.

Rajiv Gandhi said this missile will be supplied to the Indian defense forces.

With the production of this missile, India has achieved equality with the four surface-to-surface missile producing nations—the Soviet Union, the United States, China, and France.

Federal Cabinet Reviews Afghanistan Situation
BK260334 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] In light of recent developments, the situation in Afghanistan was reviewed at a special meeting of the Federal Cabinet in Rawalpindi last night. The Cabinet meeting, which was presided over by Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, decided to convene a joint session of Parliament on Sunday [28 February] afternoon to discuss the Afghanistan issue.

Sri Lanka

Security Minister Hints at Early Polls

[AFP]
BK261328 Hong Kong AFP in English 1311 GMT
26 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Feb 26 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene may announce snap elections before his government's term ends in August next year, a senior minister said Friday.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told Parliament that general elections, the first in 10 years, could be held this year if political violence on the island ended.

"One of these days, the president is going to say to the opposition: 'I am taking you by surprise' (by having early elections). Trying to go a full term is only preparing your defeat. We think we can win the next election," he said.

He described 1988 as a "year of elections" and urged Sinhalese extremists and Tamil militants to join the political process, saying the situation in the country was "very, very grave."

The ruling United National Party won the last general election in 1977 and held a referendum in December 1982 to extend its term of Parliament for another six years.

Mr. Athulathmudali's remarks came barely 24 hours after Mr. Jayewardene offered a fresh amnesty to Sinhalese and Tamil rebels if they accepted a July 29 Indo-Sri Lankan peace accord aimed at ending the island's ethnic strife.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Sinhalese Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front) are violently opposed to the pact. [passage omitted]

State of Emergency Extended 'Another Month'
BK261510 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1502 GMT 26 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 26 (LANKA PUWATH)—A resolution to extend the state of emergency by another month was passed in Parliament today with a majority of 115 votes, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation announced in its news bulletin this evening. One hundred and twenty one voted for the motion while six voted against it.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) the Communist Party (CP) and Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) opposed the resolution.

Winding up the debate, Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali said no political party should support terrorists.

The terrorists should give up their war and take to political actions.

Several elections will be held this year and among them are the provincial council elections, the municipal elections and presidential elections.

The acts by the JVP (Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front) is not political one.

Mr Lalith Athulathmudali pointed out that an early general election was not possible because of their subversive activities.

If the LTTE was fighting on behalf of the Tamils they should give up violence and join in democratic political activities. This was the only way they could achieve their objective.

LANKA PUWATH Reports 5 Indian Soldiers Killed
BK250755 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0721 GMT 25 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 25 (LANKA PUWATH)—Five Indian soldiers were reported (?killed) and four seriously wounded at Morawewa in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province District of Trincomalee yesterday, when an Indian Peace Keeping Force patrol ran into a pressure mine laid by the LTTE, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.